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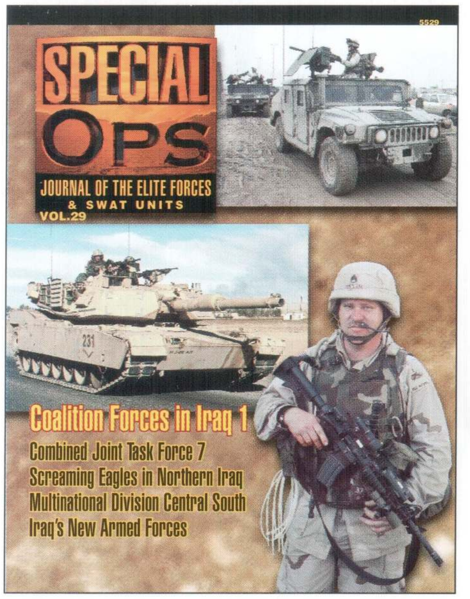
Coalition Forces in Iraq 1

Combined Joint Task Force 7
Screaming Eagles in Northern Iraq
Multinational Division Central South
Iraq's New Armed Forces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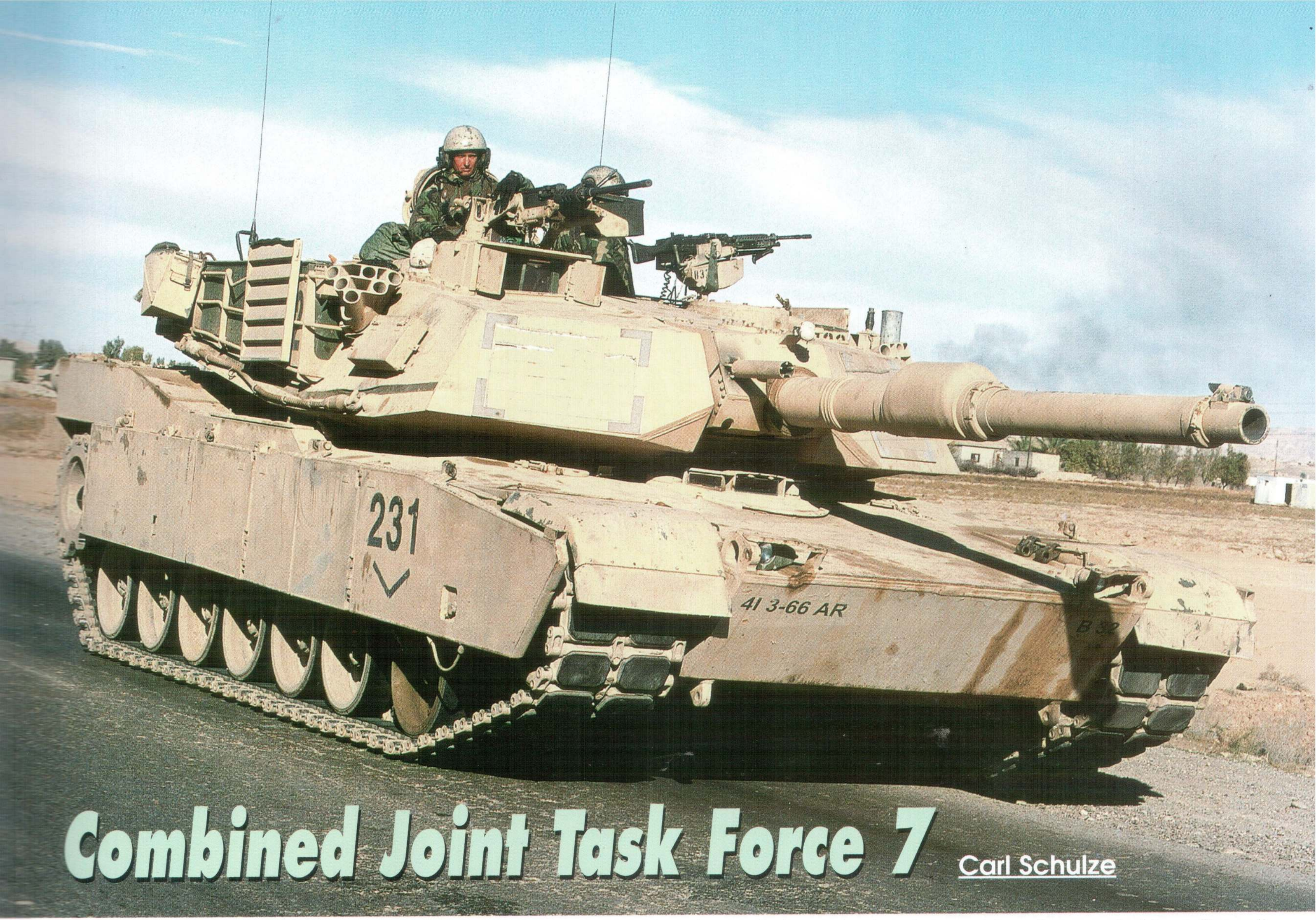


Combined Joint Task Force 7

Carl Schulze

This M1A1 from B Company of the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment was photographed on the road from Samarra to Mosul. The unit belongs to the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division, which is based in Tikrit. The AOR of the 4th Infantry Division covers a large portion of the Sunni triangle, where the bulk of the supporters of the former regime of Saddam Hussein are situated. By December 2003 the 4th Infantry Division commanded some 32,000 US troops.

In June 2003, the Combined Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF-7) replaced the Coalition Forces Land Component Command as headquarters for all coalition forces operating in Iraq. CJTF-7 reports directly to the US Central Command (CENTCOM). The bulk of the 1204 soldiers forming the staff of CJTF-7 headquarters are drawn from the V (US) Corps currently based in Heidelberg, Germany. Initially, Lieutanant General William S. Wallace commanded CJTF-7. In July 2003, General Ricardo Sanchez replaced him, and he leads the CJTF-7 at the time of writing.

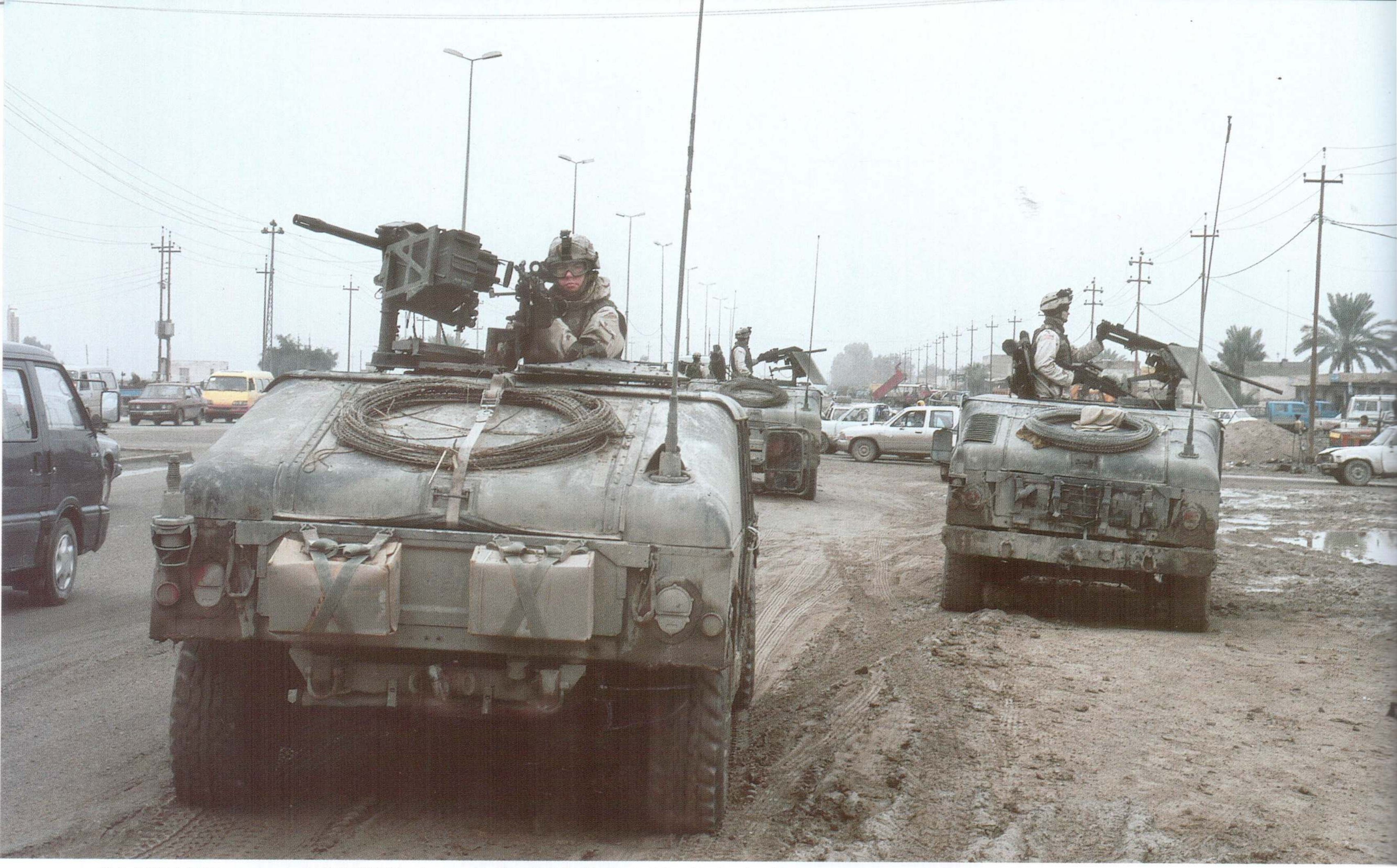
Part of CENTCOM

Since CJTF-7 is a part of CENTCOM, the Iraqi-based coalition forces are not only commanded by CENTCOM but also receive a type of support from the higher command, such as the support of naval and air force assets. As CENTCOM is not only responsible for the Gulf region but also for all US operations in Central Asia and parts of Africa, it is hard to match specific units to the support of CJTF-7. For example, it could well be that an air force unit based in the Gulf region might support troops of the CJTF-7 in Iraq one day and the next day fly sorties in support of US troops in Afgahnistan as part of Operation "Enduring Freedom." At the time of writing there were over 156,000 military personnel operating in the CENTCOM area of responsibility, including about 350 aircraft of all types.

US CENTCOM's Area of Responsibility (AOR) includes 25 nations, ranging from Egypt in the west to Pakistan in the east, from Kazakhstan in the north to Kenya and the Horn of Africa in the south. The 25 countries within the AOR are: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. The AOR includes the waters of the Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf, and the western portions of the Indian Ocean.

Of the 156,000 soldiers deployed in this region, approximaely 29,000 are from the Army and Air National Guard and 50,000 from the reserves. Roughly 10,000 troops from the US Air Force serve within the CENTCOM AOR. Naval units include a headquarters and shore-based units are made up of about 1,200 people at Manama in Bahrain. Nearly a thousand civilian mariners are associated with Military Sealift Command ships at Diego Garcia. In late 2003 there was one carrier strike group and one expeditionary strike group in the area for a total of around 16,000 naval personnel. These units included about 125 helicopters and aircraft. A total of about 425 Vertical Launch Systems are available for Tomahawk cruise missiles, while about 200 Tomahawks are actually deployed.

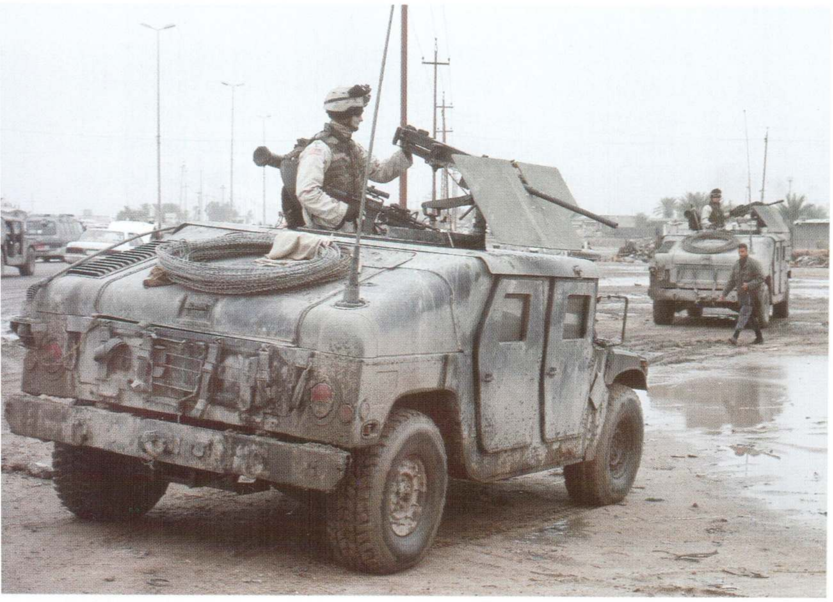
US CENTCOM is located at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, but currently most of the command work is done from a forward command establishment at Camp As Sayliyah in Doha, Quatar. CENTOM is subdivided into command elements for each service of the US forces: USARCENT (US Army Central Command and 3rd US Army), USCENTAF (US Central Command Air Force), USMARCENT (United States Marine Forces Central Command), USNAVCENT (US Naval Forces Central Command), and SOCCENT (Special Operations Command Central).



This M1114 Up-armored HMMWV belongs to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division. It is patroling along one of the coalition's main supply routes south of Baghdad in the town of Al Iskanderiyah.

Mission of CJTF-7

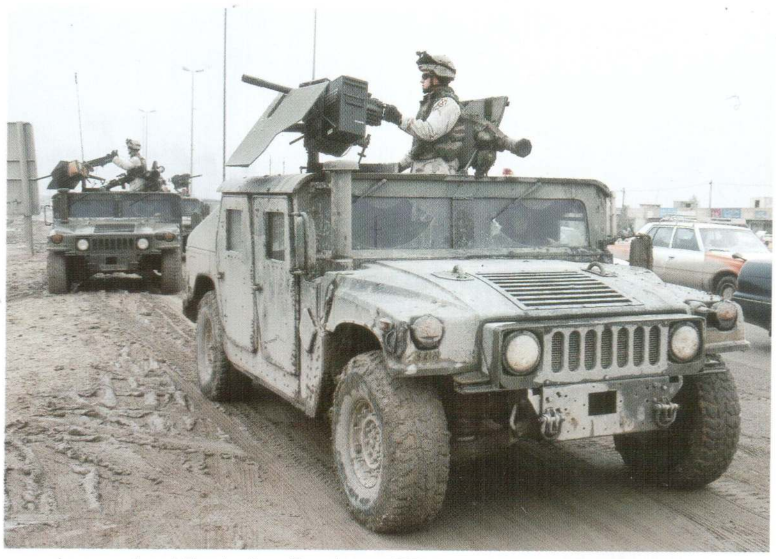
The mission of Combined Joint Task Force 7 is to conduct offensive operations to defeat remaining noncompliant forces and neutralize destabilizing influences in the Area of Responsibility to create a secure environment in direct support of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). Concurrently, it conducts stability operations that support the establishment of government and economic development to set conditions for a transfer of operations to designated follow-on military or civilian authorities. In addition, CJTF-7 is also tasked with the rebuilding of Iraqi security forces, including a new Iraqi Army, police force and border police force.



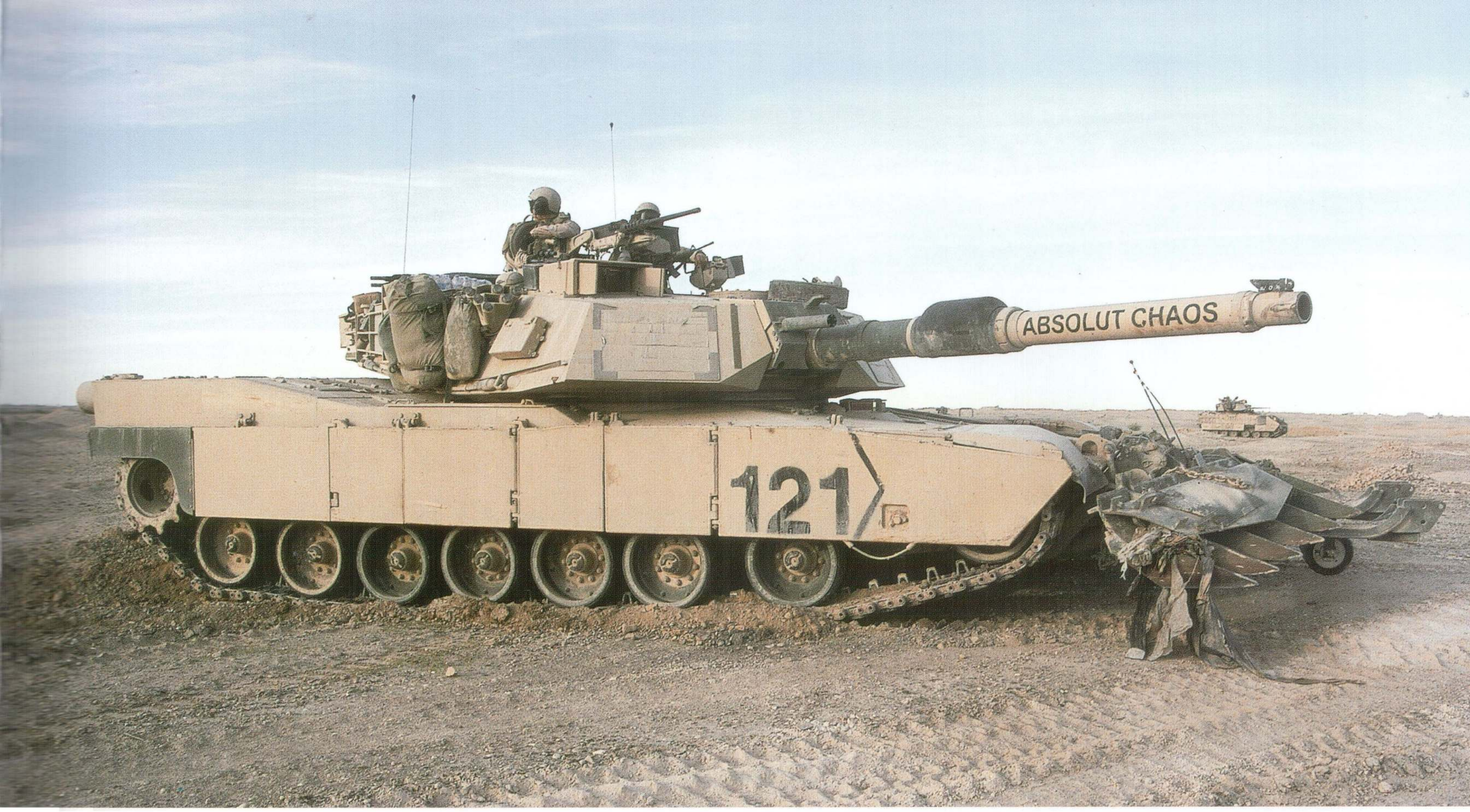
Another M1114 Up-armored HMMWV belonging to 1/32 IR. These vehicles are fitted with the 40mm Mk.19 automatic grenade launcher or the 12.7mm M2 HB machine gun.

US Forces in Iraq

At the time of writing nearly 120,000 US soldiers were deployed to Iraq under Operation "Iraqi Freedom." Among the ground forces deployed were some of the best units the US Army can field, including the 101st Airborne Division, the 4th Infantry Division, the 1st Armored Division, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade SETAF, and the 82nd Airborne Division. These prime combat units are backed up by a large number of support units from other divisions or corps.



Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are one of the threats the US troops face in Iraq. Here a patrol of the 10th Mountain Division patrols along one of the coalition's main supply routes in order to detect such devices before they can pose a danger to a supply convoy. The troops, which belong to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, were seen operating south of Baghdad. Mounted on the M1114 Up-armored HMMWV is a 40mm Mk.19 automatic grenade launcher.

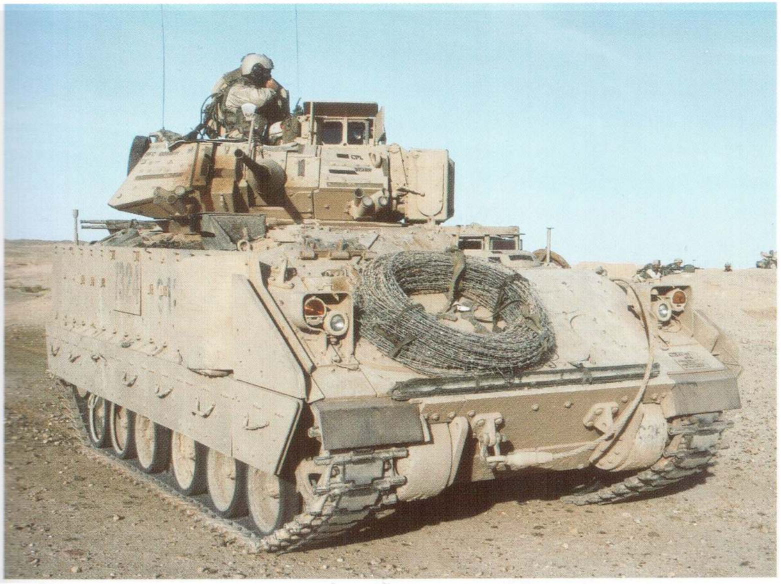


Samarra is one of the strongpoints of the Iraqi resistance. During November and December 2003, anti-coalition forces in the region conducted several ambushes and attacks on coalition forces. This led to a massive presence of US forces both day and night in the area. Here an M1A1 main battle tank of the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment (nicknamed "Absolut Chaos") is seen in the ruin fields of 9th century Samarra, which is located just outside of the modern town. The vehicle is fitted with a track-width mine plough.

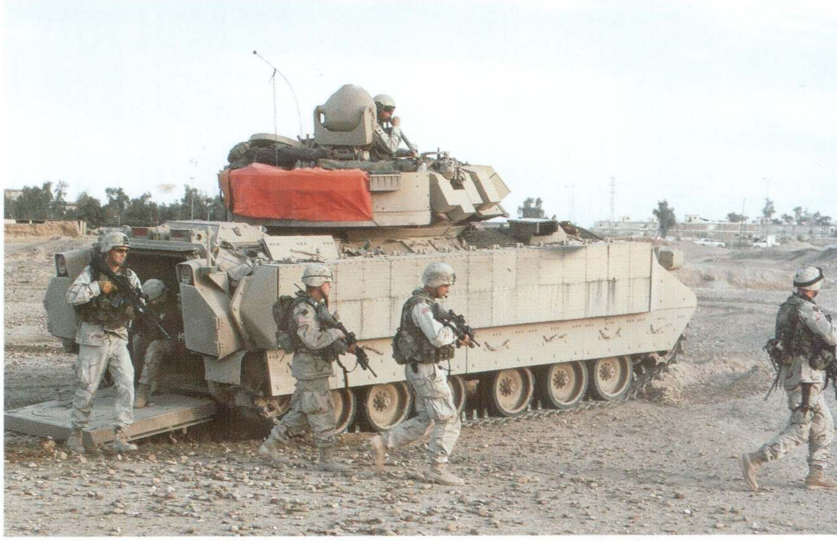
CJTF-7 AOR, Divisions and their AORs

The Area of Responsibility of CJTF-7 is Iraq as a whole country. Within the CJTF-7's AOR each division is responsible for several provinces, which then together form the division AORs. These are the following:

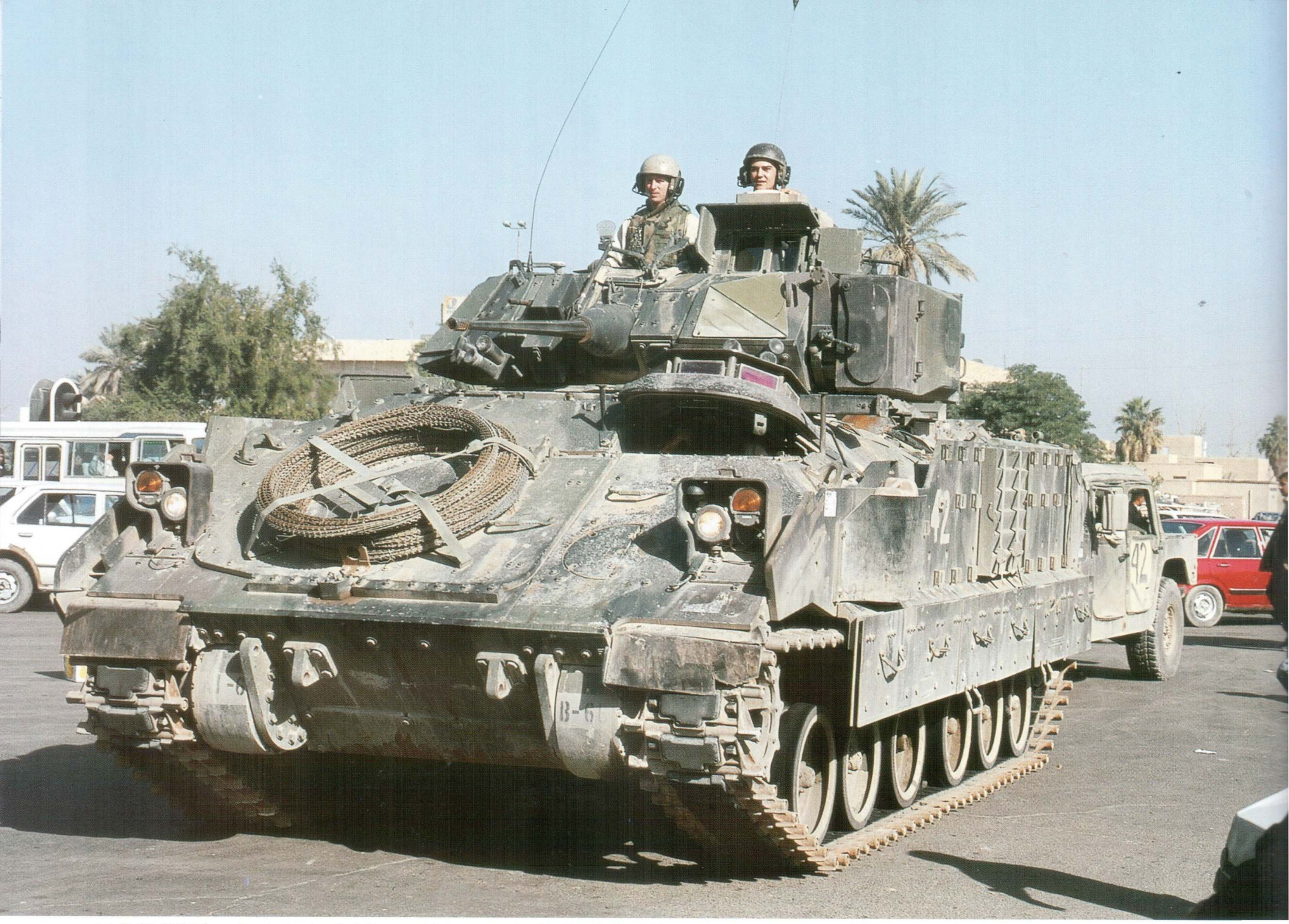
- AOR North is controlled by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and consists of the following provinces: Ninawa, Dahuk and Arbil.
- AOR North Central is controlled by the 4th Infantry Division and consists of the following provinces: At Taimim, Salah ad din, As Sulaymaniyah and Diyala.
- AOR West is controlled by the 82nd Airborne Division and consists of the largest Iraqi province, Anbar.
- AOR Baghdad is controlled by the 1st Armored Division and consists only of the Iraqi capital city and its outskirts.
- AOR Central South is controlled by the Multinational Division (Central South) and consists of the following provinces: Karbala, Babil, Wasit, Najaf, and Al Qadisiyah.
- AOR South East is controlled by the Multinational Division (South East) and consists of the following provinces: Dhi Qar, Maysan, Muthanna, and Basra.



This M2A2 ODS Bradley belongs to the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division. The vehicle was seen outside of Samarra during preparations for Operation "Ivy Blizzard." Note that the dismounted infantrymen in the background have taken cover in the historic ruins of medieval Samarra.



This M2A2 ODS Bradley is fitted with an explosive reactive armor (ERA) kit. The ERA consists of 105 tiles, of which 35 are mounted on the vehicle's front, 55 are mounted on the side, and 15 are mounted on the turret. The ERA kit provides protection against HEAT warheads such as those fired by the RPG-7. The vehicle belongs to the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division.



A M2A2 ODS Bradley infantry fighting vehicle on patrol in Baghdad. The vehicle belongs to B Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. The AOR of the 1st Armored Division "Old Ironsides" consists of the Iraqi capital. The M2A2 ODS Bradley has a crew of nine soldiers: driver, commander, gunner, and six infantrymen. The vehicle's armament consists of a 25mm M242 Bushmaster cannon, a coaxial 7.62mm M240C machine gun, and a TOW launcher with two tubes.

Coalition Forces

In addition to the 118,600 US troops, the coalition forces under command of Combined Joint Task Force 7 consist of another 22,700 troops. These troops, which come from 35 nations, mainly form the two divisions that control southern Iraq. The divisions are the following:

- Multinational Division (Central South): Led by the Polish, the division is composed of troop contingents from the following nations: Poland, Ukraine, Spain, Bulgaria, Slovenia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Mongolia, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Kazahstan, Slovakia, Thailand, Hungary, and the Philippines. In total, the division has 9230 troops under its command.
- Multinational Division (South East): Led by the British, the division is composed of troop contingents from the following nations: Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, South Korea, Lithuania, Romania, the Czech Republic, Norway, Portugal, and New Zealand. In total, the division has 16,500 troops under its command.

Also under command of CJTF-7 are minor contingents of troops from the following nations: Albania, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, and Moldavia. Based in Baghdad and providing security for its national representative is an Australian troop contingent. Australia took part in Operation "Iraqi Freedom" and is still part of the coalition, but the Australian troops in Baghdad are not part of the coalition forces under command of CJTF-7.

By February 2004, Japan had begun deploying troops to Iraq. It is the first time since World War II that Japan has deployed troops outside its own borders. The soldiers of the Japanese Self Defense Force will conduct humanitarian operations.

Coalition Death Toll

On 1 May 2003, US President George W. Bush announced the official end of the war in Iraq. But since then the situation in Iraq has been far from peaceful; the troops of CJTF-7 are attacked daily by Saddam loyalists and other resistance groups with different aims for the future of Iraq. The attacks range from drive-by shootings to convoy ambushes to suicide bomb attacks. Another deadly tactic is the placing of remote-controlled improvised explosive devices (IEDs) along convoy roads. Even coalition helicopters have been shot down by surface-to-air missiles.

Some 362 US soldiers were killed in such incidents between 1 May 2003 and 19 January 2004. Together with the 138 killed in the war, the US Army at that time lost just 500 soldiers in Operation "Iraqi Freedom." An additional 2893 soldiers were wounded, some of them badly. The other 35 nations who have deployed soldiers to Iraq have lost only 95 killed, with 127 wounded.

It was hoped that the will for resistance would have been broken by the capture of Saddam Hussein on 13 December 2003, but the attacks over Christmas 2003 and in January 2004 proved that the Iraqi and foreign resistance forces have other aims than just replacing the old regime. For the coalition forces this means that the dying has not yet ended.

Force Rotation

At the time of writing in early 2004, the first large rotation of US forces in Iraq was close. The rotation will allow troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 4th Infantry Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade SETAF to take a greatly needed rest. It must be taken into account that these and other troops currently operating in Iraq have been under constant pressure since their arrival in the region in early 2003. First they saw action in the initial war with its goal of overturning Saddam Hussein's regime. Then they deployed all over Iraq in order to establish a safe and secure environment and bring peace back to Iraq. However, since 1 May, the troops have carried on fighting. This time not against the shaken Iraqi Army but against an invisible resistance movement that uses guerilla tactics and suicide bombings to fight the US and coalition troops.

Despite the occurence of these attacks, the US forces claim that the security situation has basically improved. Therefore, the US troops deployed to Iraq will be reduced slightly in number. Between January and May 2004, the combat troops of the 1st Armored Division, the 4th Infantry Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 82nd Airborne Division will be replaced by the following forces:

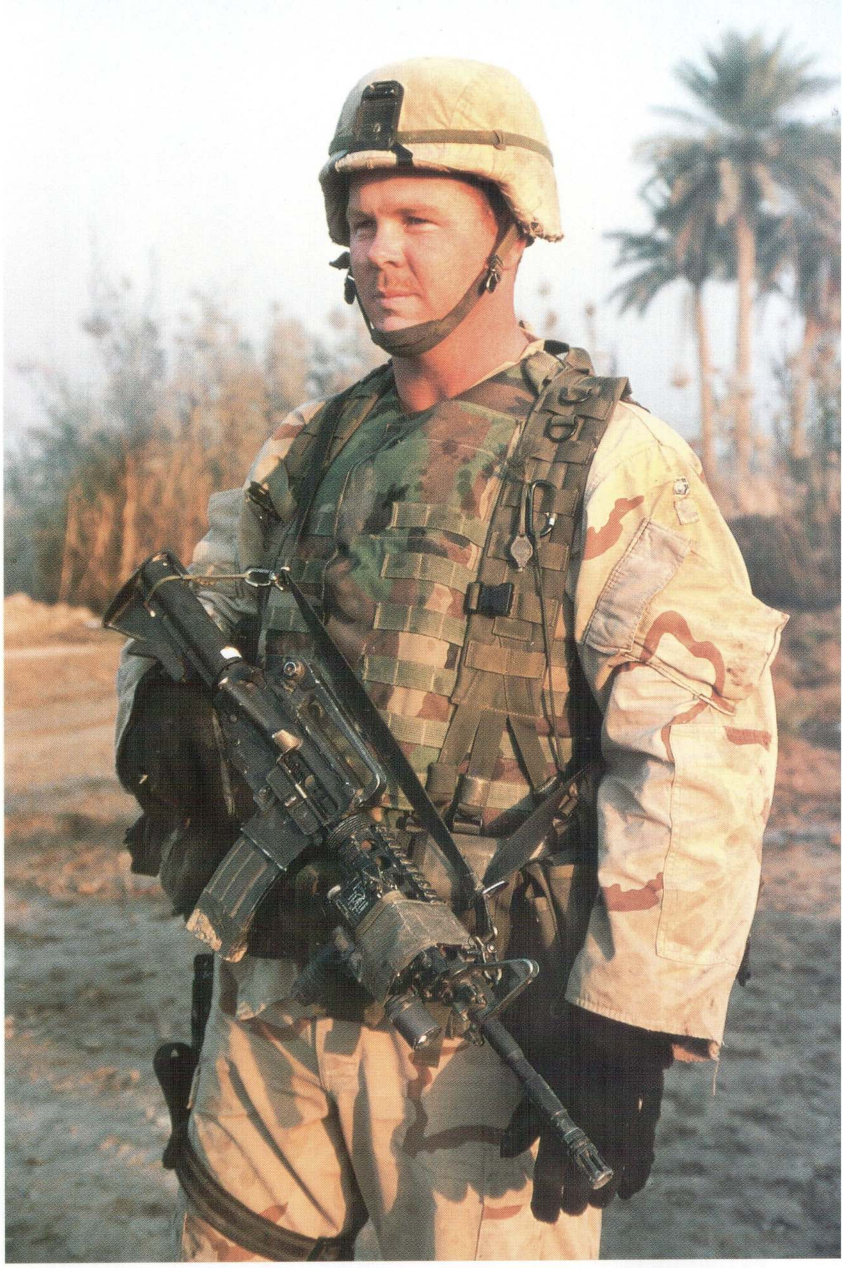
- 1st Marine Division, which will be reenforced by an armored brigade from the 25th Infantry Division
- 1st Cavalry Division
- 1st Infantry Division, which will be reenforced by the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, which arrived in Iraq in early December 2003 and currently operates under command of the 4th Infantry Division.

The troops of the 377th Theater Support Command, which currently consists of four divisions with 17 brigades, will also be reduced. In the future only three divisions and 13 brigades will be responsible for the theater logistic support of the combat units in Iraq. The fresh troops deployed to Iraq are currently listed for a one-year deployment; however, given the current political development that may give the UN a bigger role in the peace process and reconstruction of Iraq, this duration might be shorter.

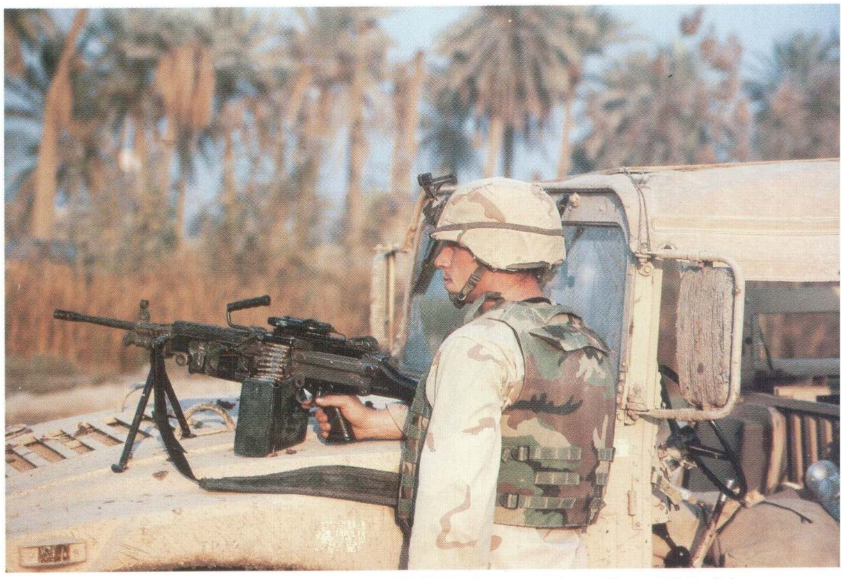
Reconstruction of Iraq: What will it cost?

Initial estimates place the cost of reconstruction in Iraq to be anywhere between $10 billion and $60 billion over the next five years. To this must be added the costs for the military presence of US troops and other coalition forces. This will raise the cost to between $100 billion and $500 billion. The uncertainty of the cost estimates is directly related to the number of variables in reconstruction activities. The ultimate costs will depend on the amount of time and number of US personnel needed to stop the resistance forces from spreading their terror. The post-war security problems suggest that US troops will be stationed in Iraq for at least another five years. Furthermore, the revival of the Iraqi economy and the ability to export oil will become important factors in determining the cost of reconstruction and the burden of Iraq to pay for reconstruction activities.

The Bush administration has $74.7 billion in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Procreations Act of 2003. It includes $62.6 billion for the Department of Defense to support military operations in Iraq and the global war on terror. The request included $2.4 billion specifically for reconstruction. According to the US State Department, these funds will be used to provide food, water, medicine, and clothing to the people of Iraq. They will also be used to repair its damaged infrastructure and restore important government services. Some of the money required for reconstruction can be drawn from frozen Iraqi assets in US banks, which total some $1.7 billion. By June 2003, $200 million of these had been released, while another $358 million had been earmarked. In addition, during search operations coalition troops recovered $800 milion, which will be directed to the reconstruction fund. There is an additional $1 billion held in UN accounts that were generated by the Oil-for-Food program.



The typical equipment worn by US troops when operating outside their bases in Iraq consists of the "Fritz"-type ballistic helmet, Interceptor Body Armor and the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) in the desert camouflage pattern. It is also interesting to note that the 5.56mm M16A3 assault rifle has been widely replaced with the 5.56mm M-4A1 carbine, which can be seen in the picture. The soldier belongs to 13th COSCOM.



This soldier of the 13th COSCOM is wearing the "Fritz"-type ballistic helmet, Interceptor Body Armor and the desert camouflage pattern BDU. He is armed with a 5.56mm M249 Squad Assault Weapon (SAW) light machine gun.

US Forces under Command of CJTF-7

CJTF-7 Headquarters and Headquarters Element formed by soldiers of the HQ of V Corps and III Corps

- 671st Engineer Company
- 842nd Engineer Company
- B Company, 109th Medical Battalion
- 1775th Military Police Company
- 1742nd Transportation Company
- 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment
- 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion
- 411th Civil Affairs Battalion
- 418th Civil Affairs Battalion
- 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion
- 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion
- 142nd Engineer Battalion
- 489th Engineer Battalion
- 724th Engineer Battalion
- 877th Engineer Battalion
- 1st Battalion, 124th Aviation Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, 124th Aviation Regiment
- 3rd Battalion, 124th Aviation Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment
- 109th Medical Battalion
- 118th Military Police Battalion
- 310th Military Police Battalion
- 320th Military Police Battalion
- 384th Military Police Battalion
- 391st Military Police Battalion
- 49th Military Police Battalion
- 541st Corps Support Battalion
- 1st Maintenance Company
- 16th Quartermaster Company
- 24th Transportation Company
- 53rd Quartermaster Company
- 79th Quartermaster Company
- 172nd Chemical Company
- 827th Quartermaster Company
- 542nd Maintenance Company
- 1014th Quartermaster Company
- 1555th Quartermaster Company
- 1133rd Transportation Company
- 1123rd Transportation Company
- 1161st Transportation Company
- * 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
  - 5th Bn, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment
- * 11th Aviation Brigade
  - 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment
  - 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment
  - 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment
  - 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment
  - 7th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment
- * 937th Engineer Group
- * 17th Field Artillery Brigade
  - 3rd Bn, 18th Field Artillery Regiment
  - 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment
  - 1st Battalion, 12th Field Artilery Regiment
  - 6th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment
- * 30th Medical Brigade
- * 62nd Medical Brigade
- * 130th Engineer Brigade
- * 205th Military Intelligence Brigade
  - 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion
  - 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion
  - 325th Military Intelligence Battalion
- * 16th Military Police Brigade
  - 924th Military Police Battalion
  - 519th Military Police Battalion
- * 18th Military Police Brigade
  - 709th Military Police Battalion
  - 793rd Military Police Battalion
- * 89th Military Police Brigade
  - 607th Military Police Battalion
  - 720th Military Police Battalion
  - 759th Military Police Battalion
- * 220th Military Police Brigade
  - 336th Military Police Battalion
  - 400th Military Police Battalion
  - 115th Military Police Battalion
- * 22nd Signal Brigade
  - 17th Signal Battalion
  - 32nd Signal Battalion
  - 234th Signal Battalion
  - 440th Signal Battalion
- * 1st Corps Support Command

XVIII Airborne Corps

- * Corps Artillery, XVIII Airborne Corps
- * 18th Aviation Brigade
- * 18th Soldier Support Group
- * 44th Medical Brigade
- * 308th Civil Affairs Brigade
- * 358th Civil Affairs Brigade
- * 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 1st Sqn, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 2nd Sqn, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 3rd Sqn, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 4th Sqn, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - Support Sqn, 2nd Armored Cavalry Rgt
- * 3rd Corps Support Command
  - 3rd Corps Material Management Center
  - 7th Corps Support Group
  - 16th Corps Support Group

82nd Airborne Division "All American"

- Headquarters and Headquarters Company
- 82nd Signal Battalion
- 82nd Soldier Support Battalion
- 82nd Military Police Company
- 21st Chemical Company
- 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery
- 313th Military Intelligence Battalion
- * 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division
  - 2nd Bn, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 3rd Bn, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 2nd Bn, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment
- * 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division
  - 1st Bn, 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 2nd Bn, 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 3rd Bn, 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 307th Engineer Battalion
  - 1st Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment
  - 407th Forward Support Battalion
- * 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division
  - 1st Bn, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 1st Bn, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 3rd Bn, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment
  - 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment
  - 82nd Forward Support Battalion
- * 82nd Aviation Brigade
  - 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment
- * Division Artillery, 82nd Airborne Division
  - 1st Bn, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Rgt
- * Division Support Command, 82nd Airborne Division
- * 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 1st Sqn, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 2nd Sqn, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 3rd Sqn, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - 4th Sqn, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - Support Sqn, 3rd Armored Cavalry Rgt
  - 122nd Eng Bn, 3rd Armored Cavalry Rgt

10th Mountain Division

- 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment
- 10th Military Police Battalion
- C Battery, 2nd Bn, 15th Field Artillery Rgt

1st Armored Division

- Headquarters and Headquarters Company
- 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment
- 141st Signal Battalion
- 1st Bn, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment
- 501st Military Intelligence Battalion
- * 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division
  - 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment
  - 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment
  - 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment
- * 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division
  - 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment
  - 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment
  - 1st Battalion, 36th Armor Regiment
- * 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division
  - 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment
  - 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment
  - 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment
- * 4th Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division
  - 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment
  - 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment
  - 127th Aviation Support Battalion
- * Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division
  - 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment
  - 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment
  - 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment
  - 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment
- * Division Engineers, 1st Armored Division
  - 16th Engineer Battalion
  - 40th Engineer Battalion
  - 203rd Engineer Battalion

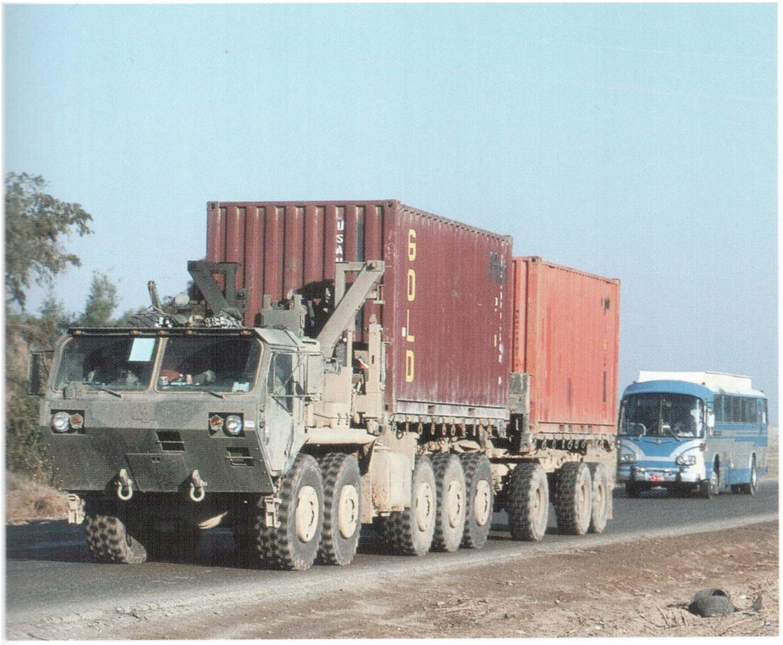
  70th Engineer Battalion
* Division Support Command
  501st Forward Support Battalion
  125th Forward Support Battalion
  47th Forward Support Battalion
  127th Area Support Battalion
  123rd Main Support Battalion
* 13th Corps Support Command
* 555th Engineer Group
  5th Engineer Battalion
* 21st Theater Support Command
  51st Maintenance Battalion

4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

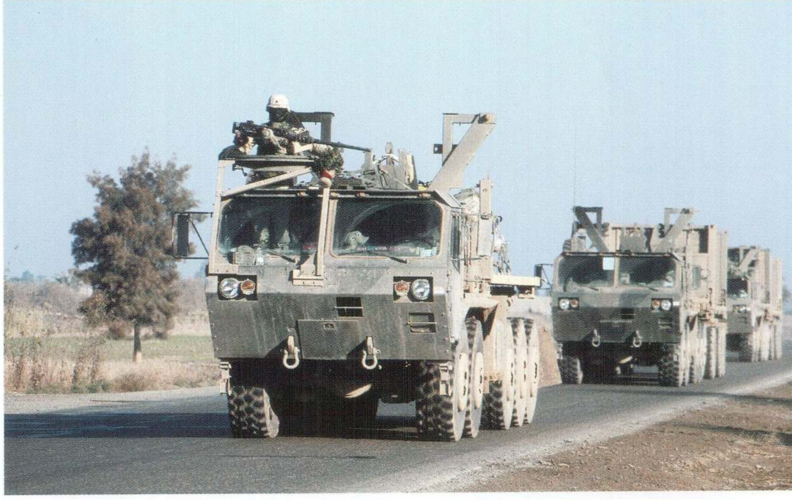
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
1st Bn, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment
104th Military Intelligence Battalion
124th Signal Battalion
* 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
  1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment
  1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment
  3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment
  299th Engineer Regiment
* 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
  2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment
  1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment
  3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment
  588th Engineer Regiment
* 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
  1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment
  1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment
  1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment
  4th Engineer Regiment
* 4th Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
  1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment
  2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment
  1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment
* Division Artillery, 4th Infantry Division
  3rd Bn, 16th Field Artillery Regiment
  2nd Bn, 20th Field Artillery Regiment
  3rd Bn, 29th Field Artillery Regiment
  4th Bn, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment
* Division Support Command
  4th Forward Support Battalion
  64th Forward Support Battalion
  204th Forward Support Battalion
  704th Forward Support Battalion
  404th Forward Support Battalion
* 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division
  C Co, 5th Bn, 5th Air Defense Artillery Rgt
  367th Maintenance Company
  334th Signal Company
  18th Engineer Company
  209th Military Intelligance Company
  1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment
  2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment
  5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment
  1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment
  1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment
* 173rd Airborne Brigade SETAF
  1st Bn, 508th Airborne Infantry Regiment
  2nd Bn, 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment
  173rd Airborne Brigade Recon Company
  501st Forward Support Company
  173rd Engineer Detachment
  D Battery, 3rd Bn, 319th Airborne FA Rgt

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Regiment
86th Combat Support Hospital
326th Engineer Battalion
311th Military Intelligence Battalion
501st Signal Battalion
* 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
  1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment
  2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment
  3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment
* 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
  1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment
  2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment
  3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment
* 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
  1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment
  2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment
  3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment
* 101st Aviation Brigade
  2nd Battalion, 17th Cavalry Regiment
  1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
  2nd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
  3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
  6th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
* 159th Aviation Brigade
  4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
  5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
  7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
  9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
* Divison Artillery, 101st Airborne Division
  1st Bn, 320th Field Artillery Regiment
  2nd Bn, 320th Field Artillery Regiment
  3rd Bn, 320th Field Artillery Regiment
* Division Support Command
  63rd Chemical Company
  8th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
  426th Forward Support Battalion
  526th Forward Support Battalion
  626th Forward Support Battalion
  801st Main Support Battalion



This Oshkosh 10x10 M1074 truck belongs to one of the countless supply convoys travelling north to suppy the US troops of the 101st Airborne Division in Mosul.The vehicle tows a M1076 trailer. Both truck and trailer are loaded with M1077 flat racks loaded with containers.



The 118,600 US troops and 22,700 coalition troops under command of CJTF-7 require an enormous number of supplies daily. Some of the required material, including fuel, ammunition, food, spare parts, etc., is brought up into Iraq from CENTCOM's large logistic bases in Kuwait. Here a convoy of logistic vehicles travels to pick up the next load. The first vehicle of this convoy is an Oshkosh 10x10 M1074 truck fitted with the Palletized Load System. The other trucks are Oshkosh 8x8 M1120 trucks with the M1076 trailer. Note the machine gun mount fitted to the first truck.

Troops of a US Military Police unit secure a traffic accident sight on the main highway leading from the west into Baghdad. The vehicle is a M1026A1 armament carrier with basic armor and winch.

The US military police units in Iraq operate the M1117 "Guardian" Armored Security Vehicle. The vehicle is fitted with the Up-gunned Weapon Station, which is fitted with a 40mm Mk.19 automatic grenade launcher and a 12.7mm M2 HB machine gun. The pictured vehicle belongs to the 793rd Military Police Battalion "Spartans" of the 18th Military Police Brigade.

This M1A2 (SEP) Abrams main battle tank belongs to C Company of the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment. The unit belongs to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division, which is based around Baqubah. The brigade is the only one deployed to Iraq that fields the newest version of the US main battle tank. In addition, the brigade's mechanized infantry battalion is equipped with the latest version of the Bradley infantry fighting vehicle, the M2A3.

The UH-60 Black Hawk transport helicopter is used by the US Army for troop and equipment transport, as well as CASEVAC operations. A transport helicopter battalion has a total of 24 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters under its command. Since the time the war ended in May 2003, the US Army has lost several UH-60s in Iraq. Some were lost in accidents and others where shot down by the resistance forces using either SAMs or RPG-7s.

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior of the 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment patrols along a road close to Balad. In Iraq the US Army uses helicopters like the OH-58D or the AH-64D to protect the main supply routes and convoys from the air.

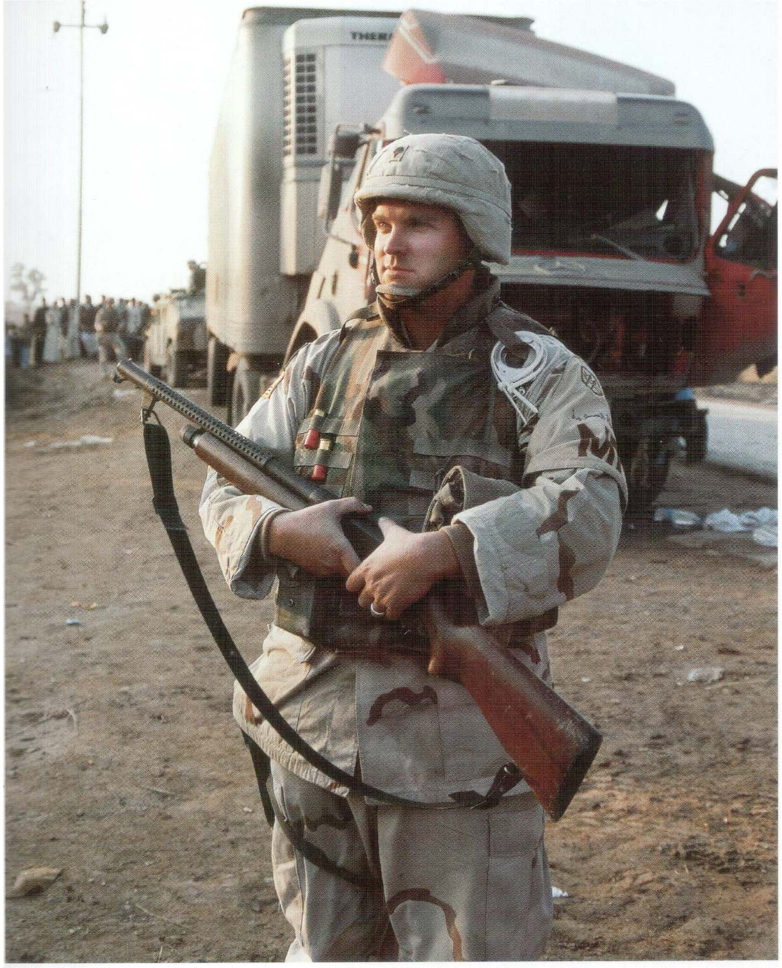
Oil: Iraq's Natural Treasure

The key for funding the reconstruction of Iraq is the country's large oil reserve. Iraq has the second largest oil reserve in the world, which means that once the oil production is back on line the country will easily be able to pay for being rebuilt. With its oil production Iraq can gain an estimated $20 to $30 billion a year.

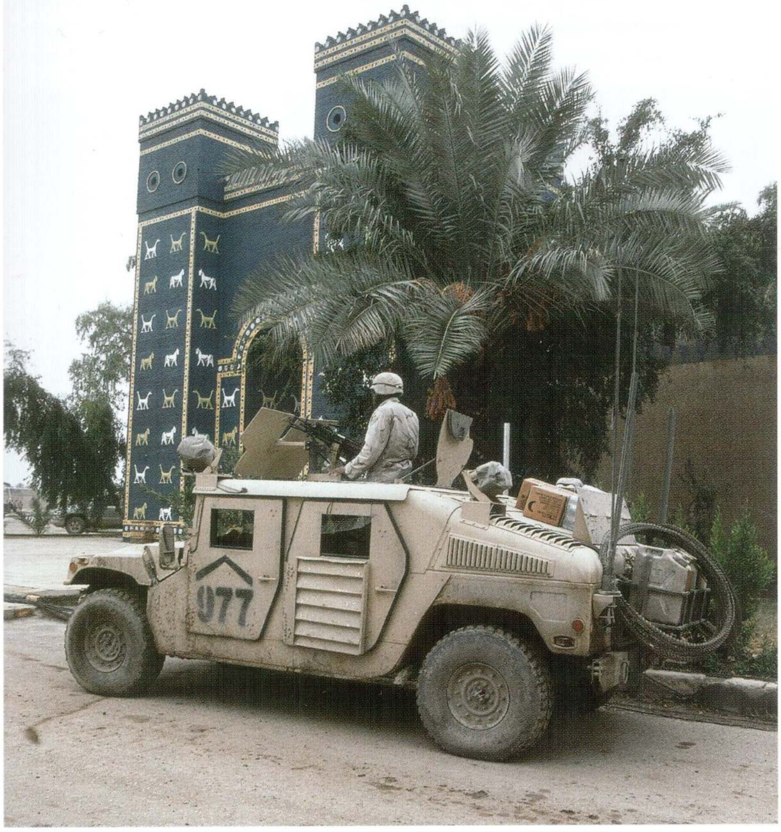
After the UN lifted the sanctions on Iraq in the summer of 2003, a limited resumption of oil exports began when the Al Faw oil terminal was reopened. While the current oil production is estimated at 1,500,000 barrels a day, the goal is to reach the pre-war and pre-sanction production of 1990 of 2,500,000 barrels. The reason for the quick recovery of the oil production is that the coalition forces captured most of the Iraqi oil fields without damaging them. However, looting and the impact of the over-ten-year-long embargo affected the reconstruction process.

Current oil production is mainly done at the oil fields around Kirkuk and Basra. While there are three major oil refinery complexes in Iraq, the only truly operational one is the one near Baghdad. The second one, in Kirkuk, has suffered from looting, while the third one, near Basra, is severely below its capacity. Currently Iraq's oil production and exportation is conducted by an advisory board consisting of US officials serving as advisors and Iraqis working in the new ministry and in the oil installations.

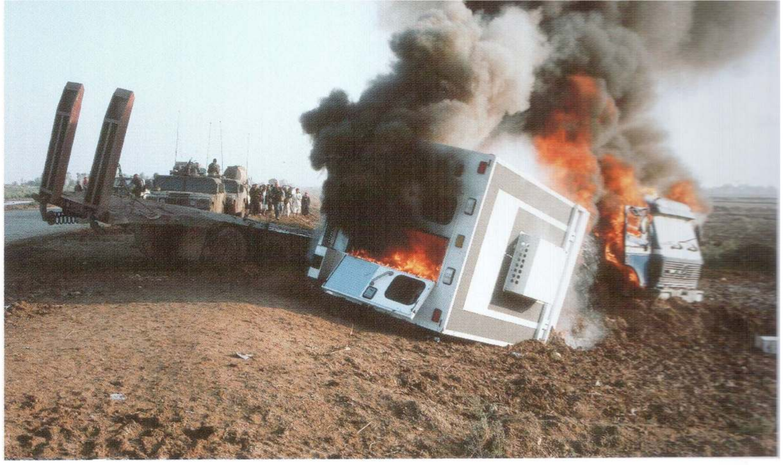
Protecting oil fields and guarding oil installations are two key missions of the coalition forces in Iraq. While in the early months this was performed by the coalition forces themselves, in late 2003 most of the sites have been transferred to local guards of the Facility Protection Service or the Iraqi Police Service. Despite these tight security measures, oil installations such as pipelines or pump stations have become targets for the resistance forces in order to sabotage the reconstruction process.



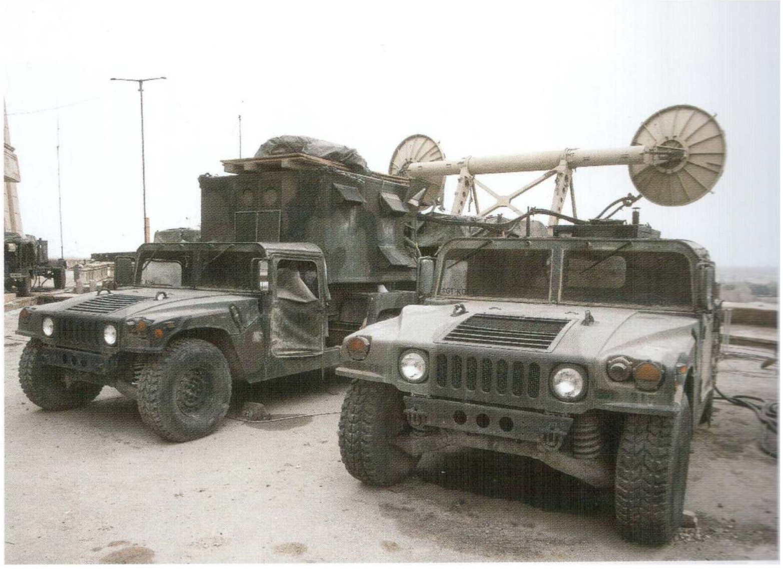
A US Military Policeman guards a broken down supply truck after a traffic accident. He is armed with a M870 Remington 12-gauge shotgun.



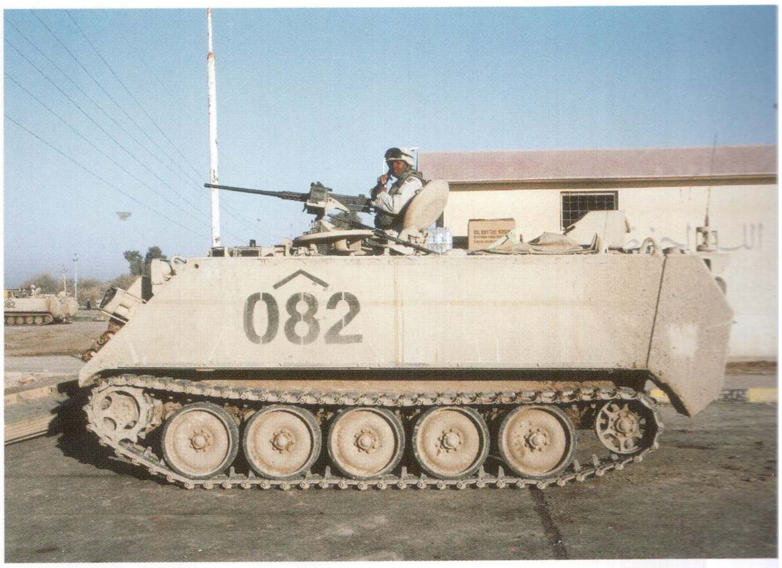
US Military Police units operate all over Iraq. The MPs provide road security along the main supply roads, are responsible for traffic control, escort coalition convoys, support and train local Iraqi police forces, and search for members of the resistance forces. Here a M1114 Up-armored HMMWV from a US Military Police unit are shown in the Polish base built around the ruins of Babylon near Al Hillah. Note the reconstruction of the famous "Ihstar" gate in the rear.



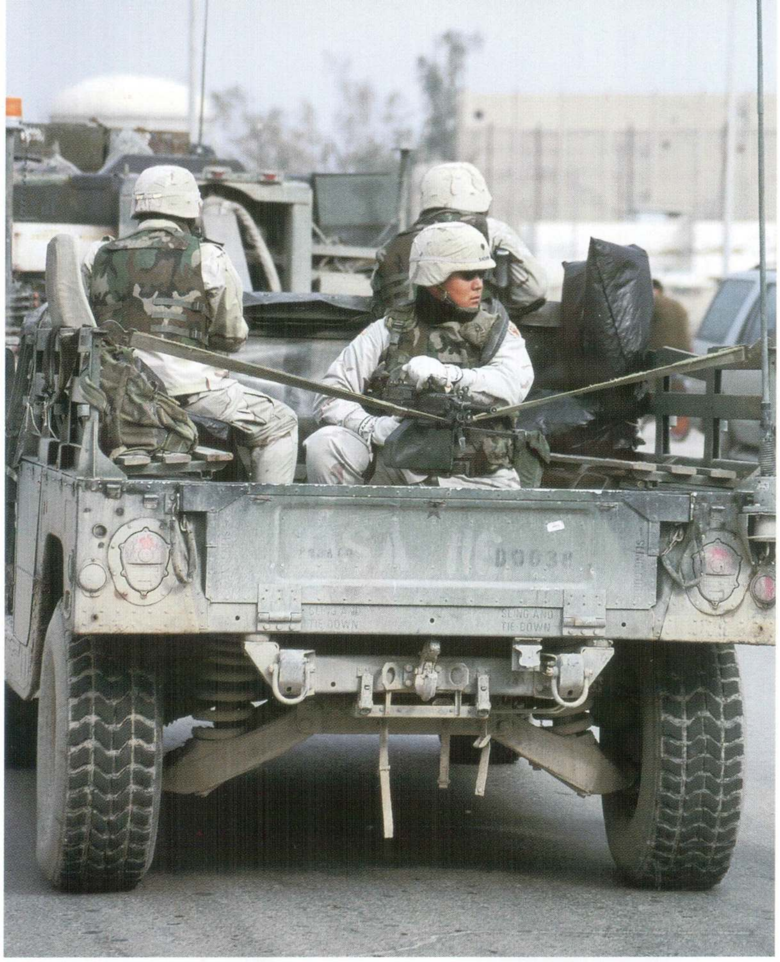
US Military Police soldiers burn a supply truck and its load, a brand new GMC ambulance, following a traffic accident. Because there was no way for the US troops to recover the vehicle, the soldiers decided to destroy both vehicle and material rather than let the Iraqis loot it. "If we leave it to them, fighting will break out about who will get which bit, so we burn it," commented a Military Police soldier. The accident happened close to As Samawah in early December 2003.



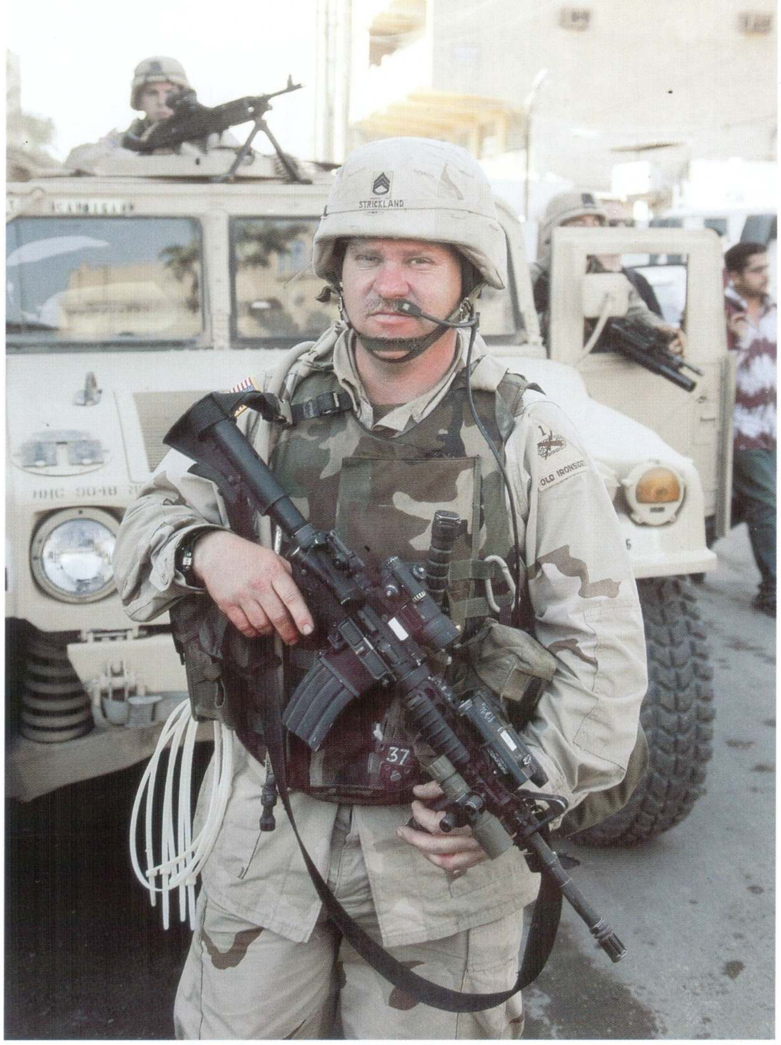
US Army signal units handle communications between the divisions under command of the CJTF-7. Seen here are vehicles from a US signal detachment attached to the Polish-led MND (CS) based near the ruins of Babylon.



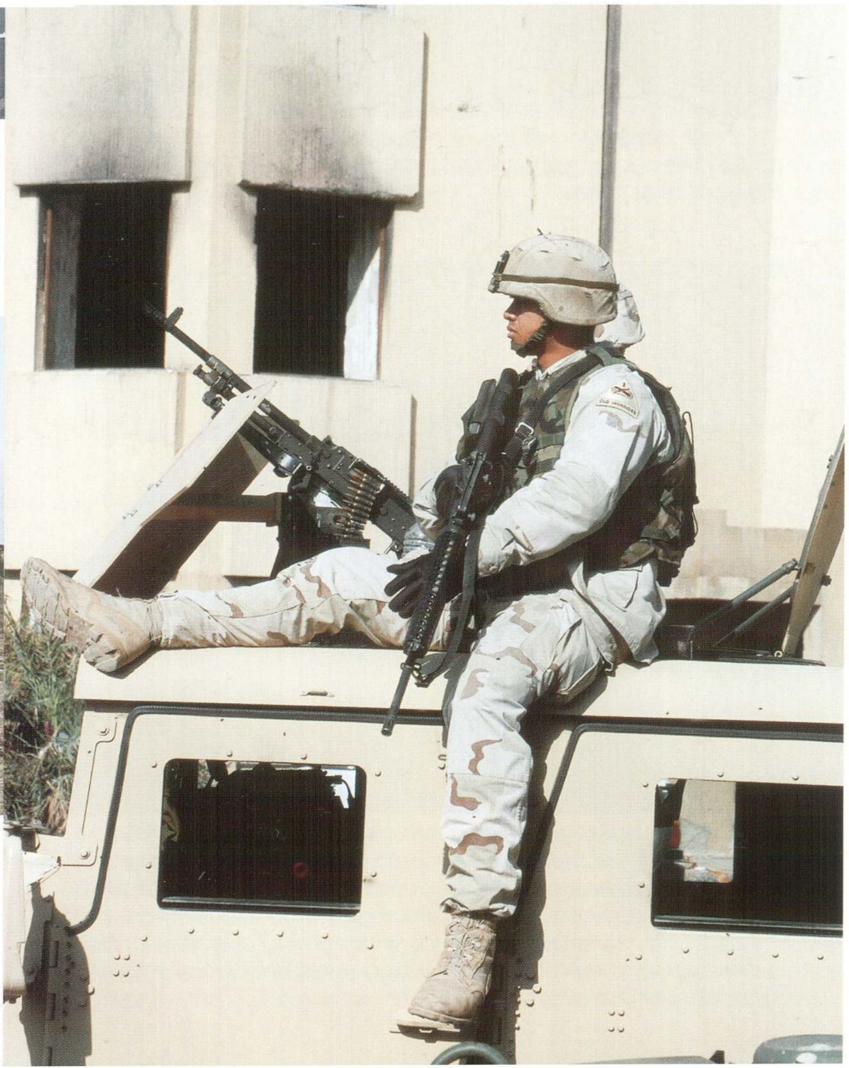
A M1059A3 smoke generating vehicle belonging to a chemical company guards a fuel station north of Baghdad. A security operation such as the one US forces conducted in Iraq often requires troops to perform unusual tasks. For example, while usually providing smoke screens to cover own troops activities during a major conflict, in Iraq the soldiers of the chemical company provide security for fuel stations or conduct vehicle checkpoints.

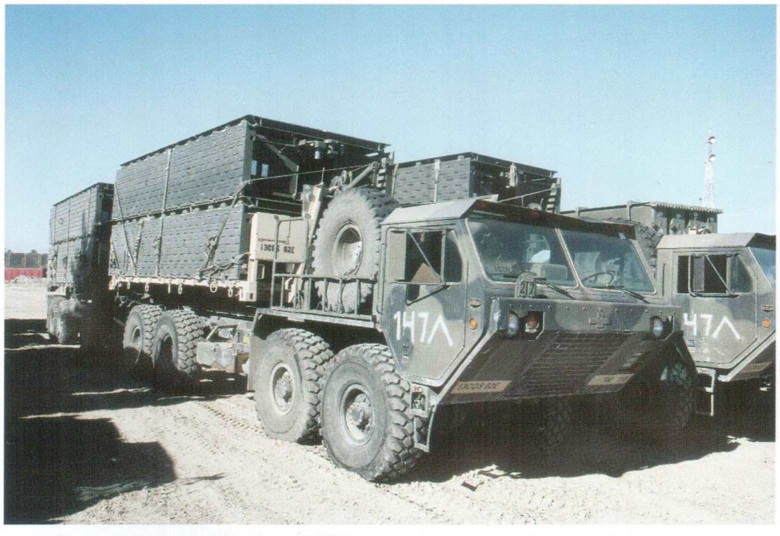


The lack of sufficient amored patrol vehicles often forces US troops to ride in the open on top of their HMMWVs or in back of their trucks to provide security for convoys. While some lucky units received additional packages of M1114 Up-armored HMMWVs to protect them against the fire of the resistance forces, most units have to cope with the situation as best as they can. Here soldiers escort a convoy using a M998A1 HMMWV cargo vehicle.



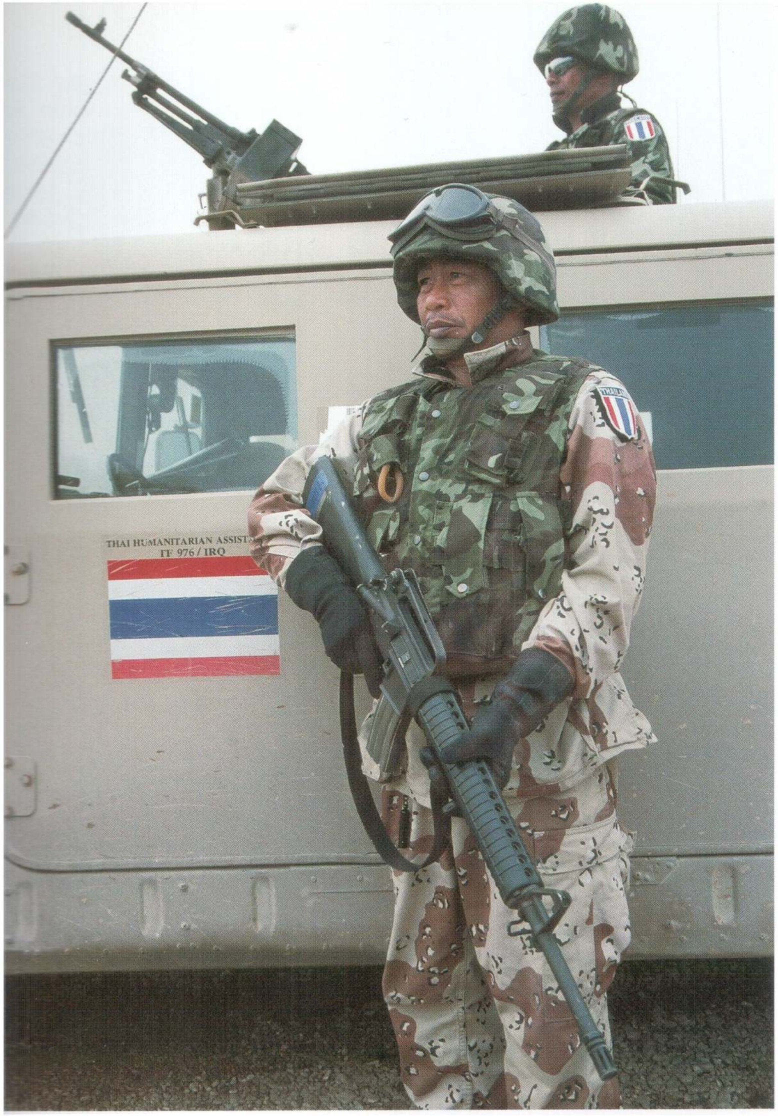
US troops of the 1st Armored Division patrol in the crowded streets of Baghdad. The soldiers belong to the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. The soldier in the front is armed with a 5.56mm M-4A1 carbine fitted with an AN/PAQ 4 infrared target pointer and illuminator, a visible light, and an ACOG scope. Note the division badge worn on the soldier's left upper sleeve.



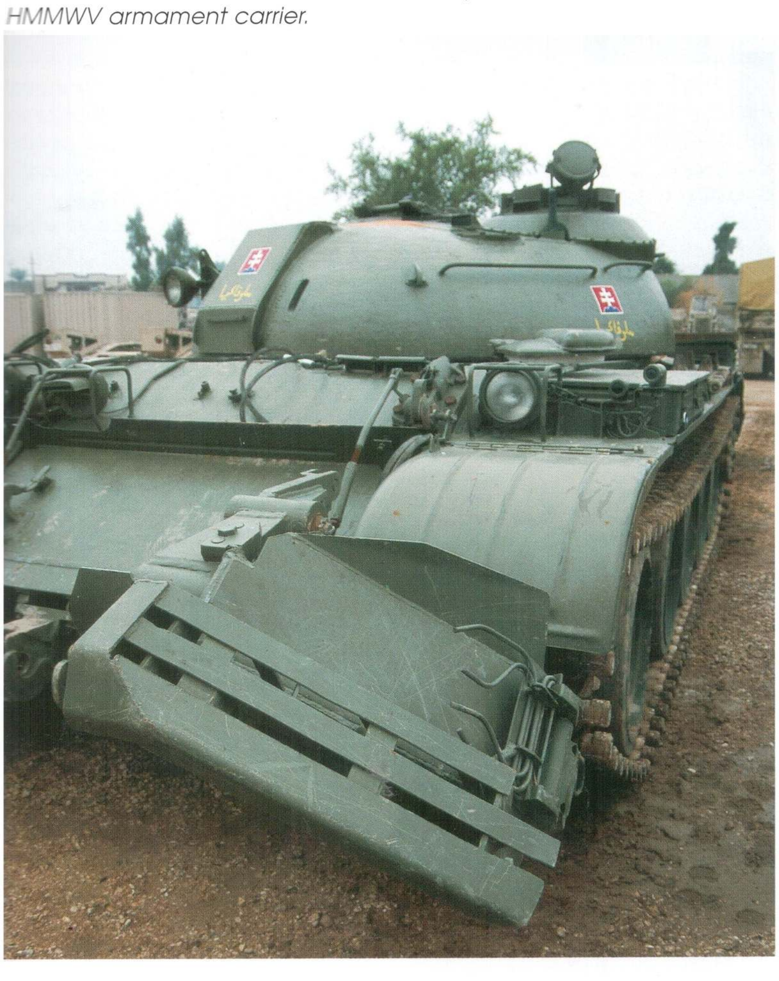


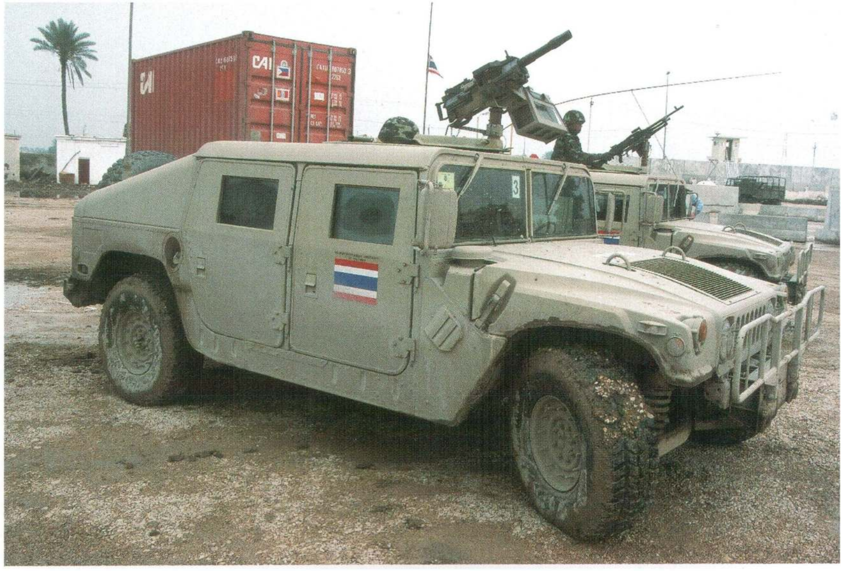
This Oshkosh 10x10 M1074 truck fitted with the Palletized Load System and towing a M1076 trailer belongs to the 82nd Engineer Brigade of the 13th COSCOM. The vehicles, which are loaded with bridging equipment, were seen at the base of the 4th Infantry Division in Tikrit.

Troops of the 1st Armored Division provide security for a demonstration in the center of Baghdad. The soldier is armed with the 5.56mm M16 assault rifle and belongs to the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. For operations in Iraq, each US mechanized infantry and tank battalion received an extra package of M1114 Up-armored HMMWVs. These vehicles are much better suited for patroling in the populated cities of Iraq than heavy tracked vehicles.

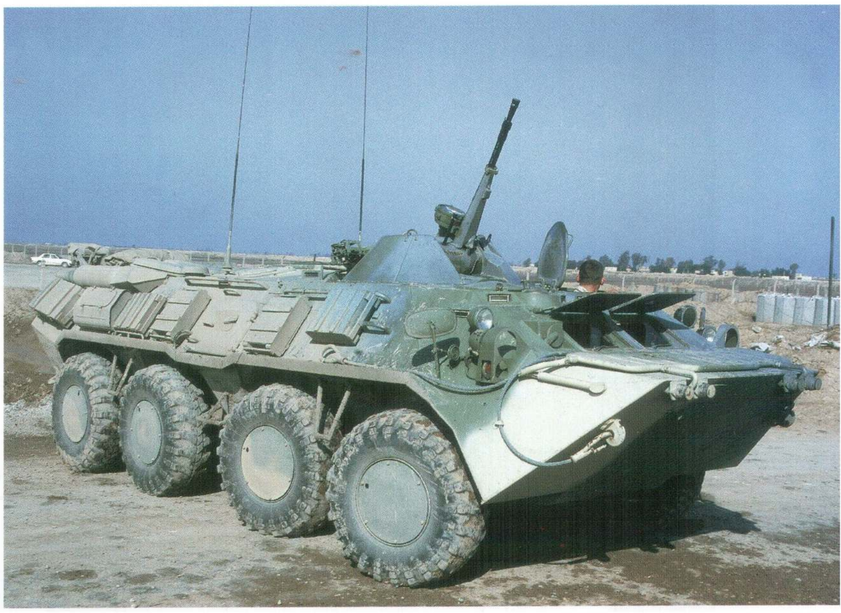


Thailand deployed an 866-strong engineer battalion under command of CJTF-7. The unit is part of the Polish-led MND (CS) and is based in Karbala. The Thai unit is called the Thai Humanitarian Assistance Task Force. Here a Thai soldier poses in front of a M1044A1 HMMWV armament carrier.



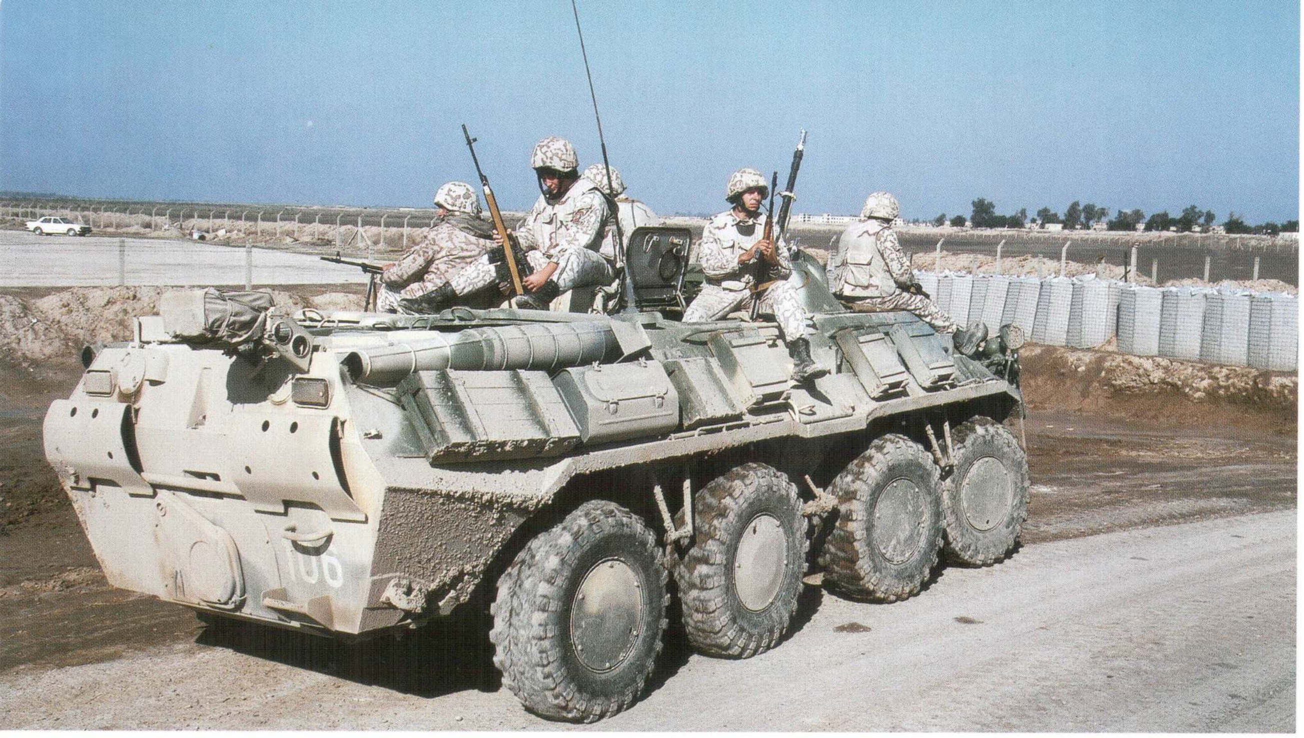


In addition to driving various engineer vehicles, the Thai engineer unit is also equipped with a number of M1044A1 HMMWV armament carriers. The vehicle in front is armed with a 40mm Mk.19 automatic grenade launcher, while the second vehicle is fitted with a 7.62mm FN MAG machine gun.

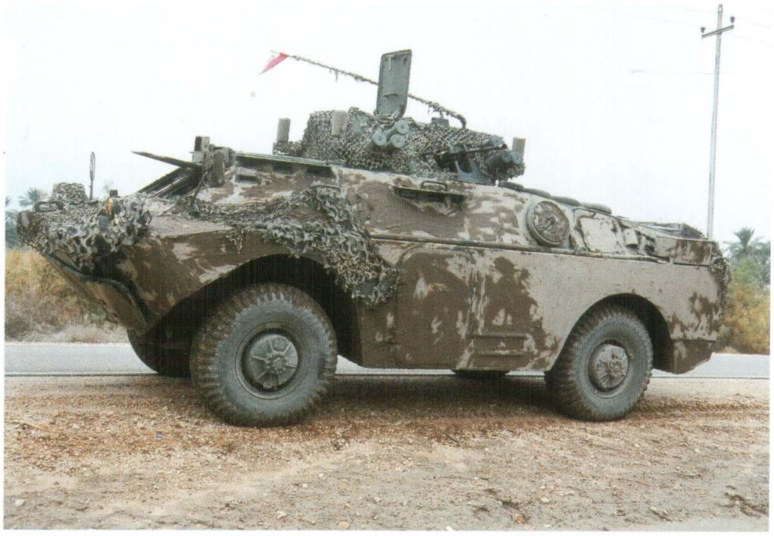


A 1659-strong Ukrainian Brigade Combat Team based at Al Kut also belongs to the MND (CS). The Ukrainian contingent is formed of troops from several of the country's airborne and mechanized units. The brigade was formed from two mixed mechanized battalions, a headquarters company, and a logistic battalion. The main modes of transportation of the Ukrainian mechanized infantry units are the BRDM-2 wheeled reconnaissance vehicle and the BTR-80 wheeled armored personnel carrier.

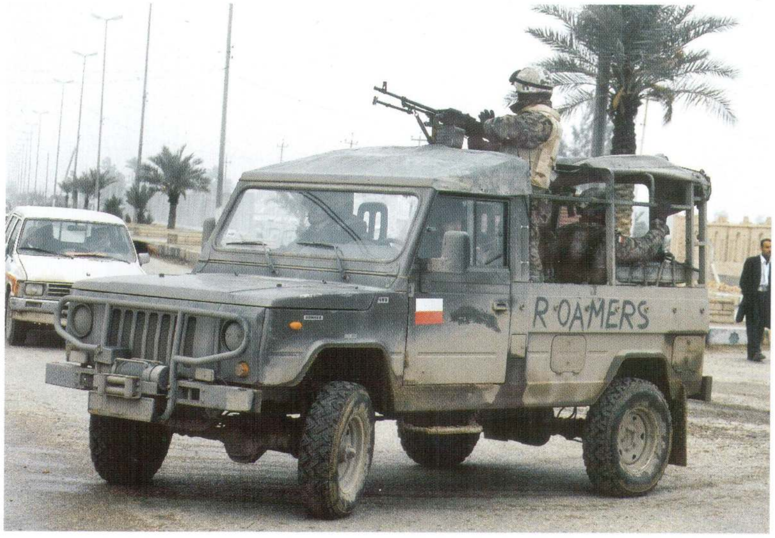
Also under command of the MND (CS) is a Slovakian engineer company with 83 soldiers. Two of the main tasks of this company are de-mining and the disposal of explosive ordnance. Along with sending troops, the Slovakian army deployed two T-55-based mine clearing vehicles, one of which can be seen in this picture. Other equipment used by the company inludes four OT-64 SKOT wheeled armored personnel carriers.



A BTR-80 leaves the Ukrainian base outside Al Kut to go on patrol. Due to the cramped conditions inside the BTR-80, the soldiers tend to ride on the vehicle rather than sitting inside. This BTR-80 is fitted with sand-filled boxes along its side that provide additional protection against RPG attacks. Note that the boxes cover the vehicle's firing ports.

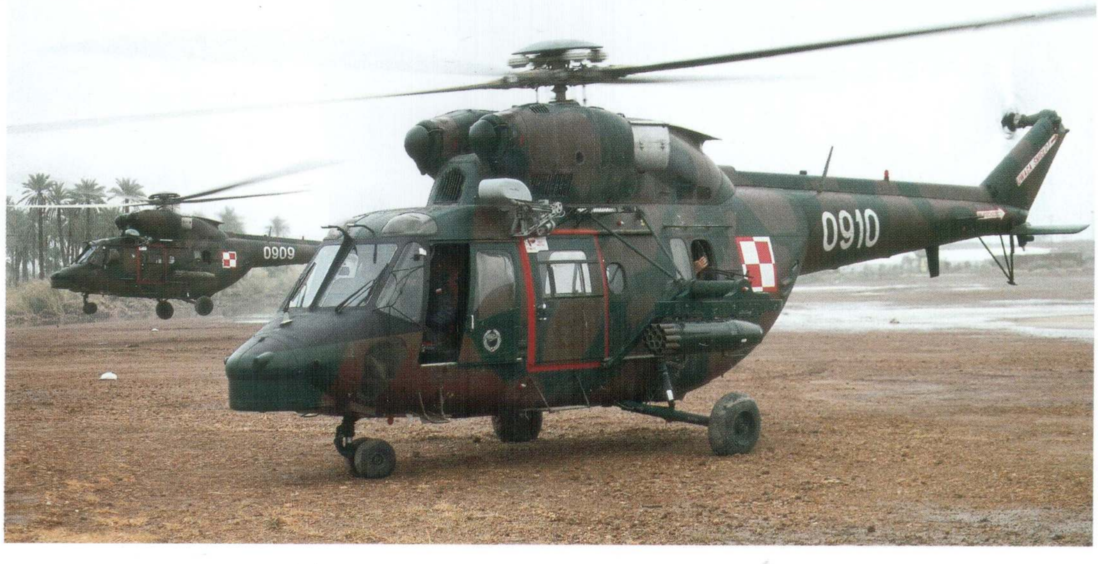


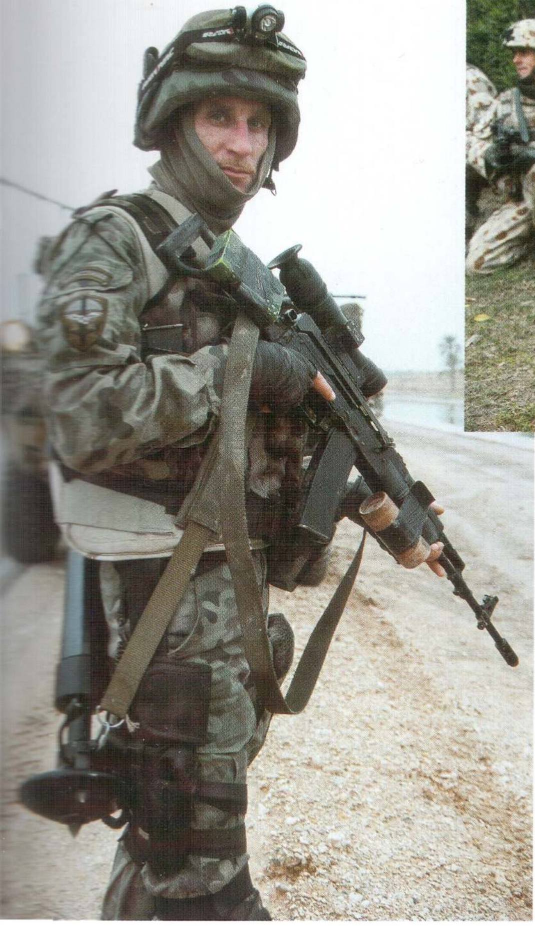
Due to the US request that only wheeled armored personnel carriers be deployed with coalition forces in Iraq, the troops from Poland deployed only the BRDM-2 "Zbik" wheeled reconnaissance vehicle with their forces. The BRDM-2 Model 97 "Zbik" is an upgraded version of the Russian-made BRDM-2 and features an Iveco diesel engine, a modified power-operated turret, and two banks of smoke grenade dischargers.



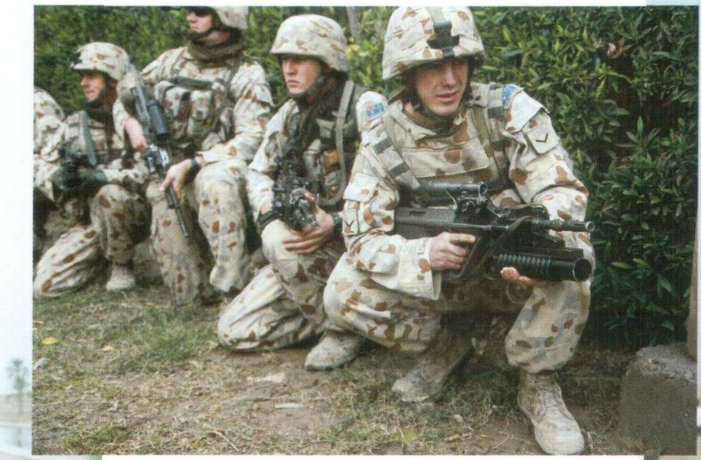
Poland's combat troops in Iraq consist of two mechanized infantry battalions and an air assault infantry battalion. Other units from Poland are a special forces company, a military police company, a logistic battalion, a division headquarters, a brigade headquarters, an engineer company, and a medical company. Here soldiers of a mechanized infantry company block a crossroads while a supply convoy passes. Note that the machine gunner on the Honker 2000 4x4 light vehicle is wearing a mix of Polish-pattern desert and woodland camouflage.

The helicopter asset of the MND (CS) is equipped with a mix of five Mi-8 Hip and five Sokol W-3W transport helicopters drawn from the 37th and 66th Transport Helicopter Regiments of the Polish army. The helicopters are used to transport the troops of the 7th Air Cavalry Battalion during air assault operations and for casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) missions. This photograph shows two of the Sokol W-3W of the 66th Transport Helicopter Regiment taking off from the helipad of Camp Babylon.

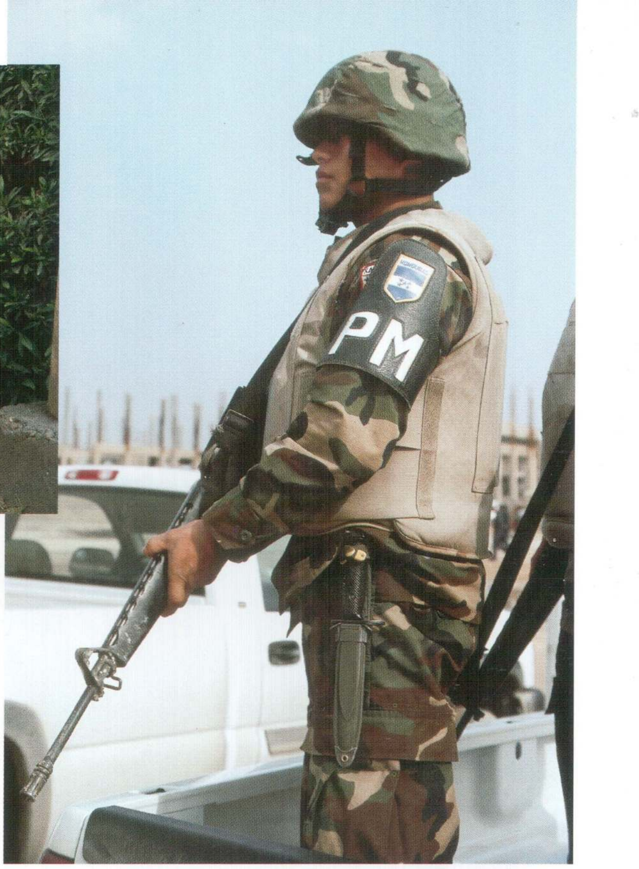




This Polish infantryman is armed with a 5.56mm Beryl assault rifle that is fitted with a PCS-6 passive night sight. On his back he carries a 60mm LM-60 K2 light mortar. In the pistol holster on his upper right leg he carries a 9mm P83 pistol.

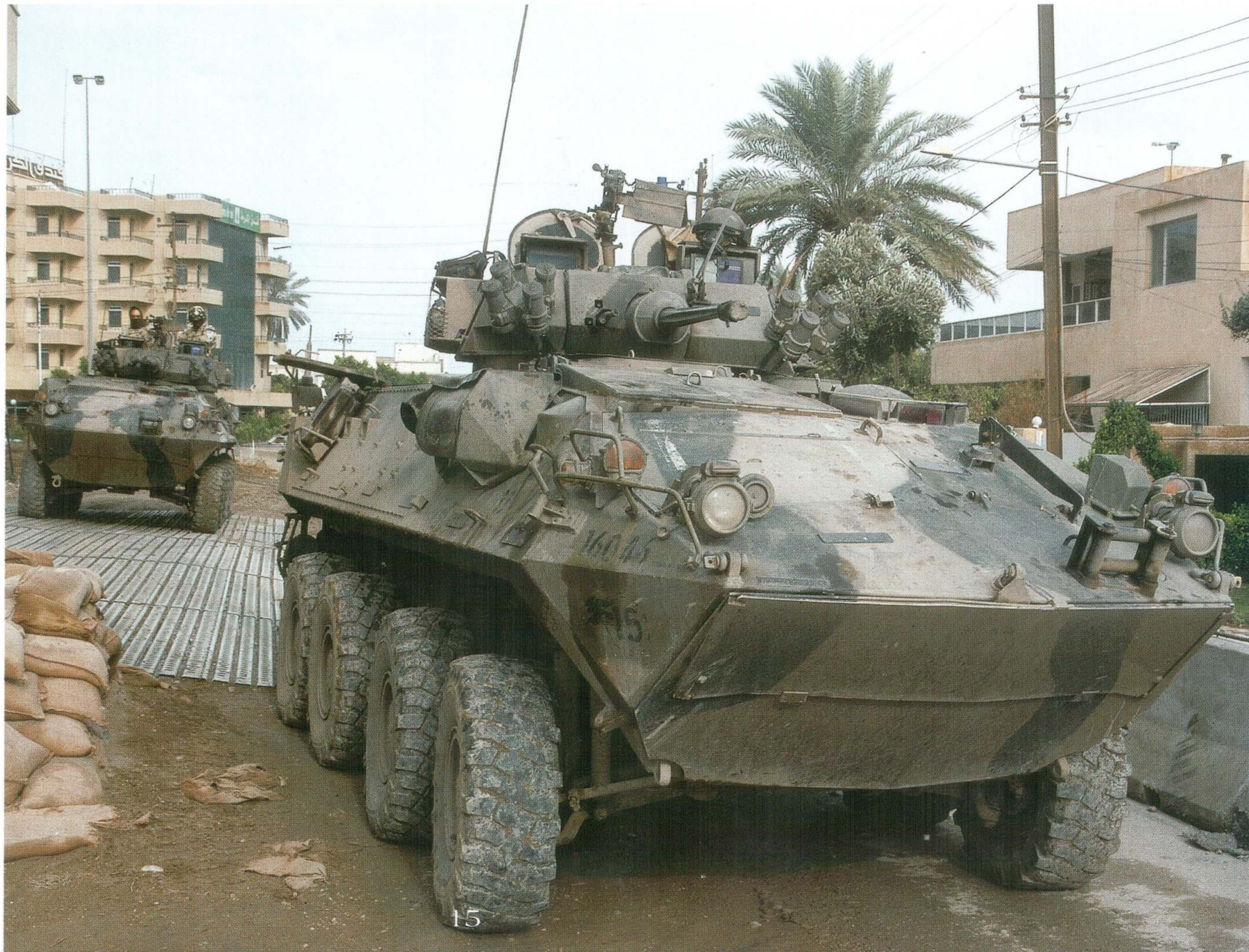


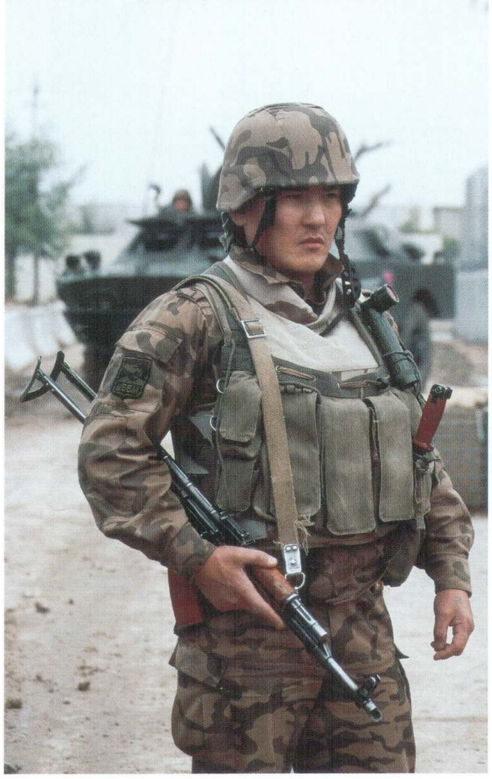
Troops of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment await orders to move during a patrol in the city of Baghdad. The first soldier is armed with 5.56mm F-88 assault rifle, an Australian version of the Steyr AUG, under which a 40mm M203 grenade launcher is fitted. The second soldier carries a 5.56mm F-89 light machine gun, the Australian version of the MINIMI.



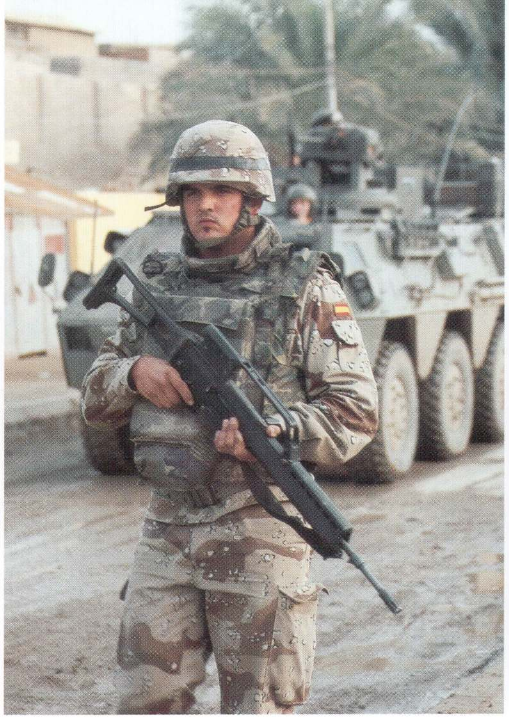
Part of the Spanish Brigade of MND (CS) is an infantry battalion from Honduras, a 370-strong unit based in the city of Najaf. Its equipment, which is mainly of US origin, includes HMMWVs, as well as 5-ton trucks and civilian pick-ups. The battalion's base camp, Camp "Tegucigalpa," became the target of a mortar attack on 3 December 2003. The pictured soldier is armed with a 5.56mm M16A1 assault rifle. The Honduran unit is drawn together from several units, including the country's special and airborne forces.

The Australian element of the coalition forces has the mission of providing security to the Australian representatives in Iraq. It consists of a company of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment reinforced by I troop, 2nd Cavalry Regiment equipped with two ASLAV-25 fire support vehicles and two ASLAV-PC wheeled armored personnel carriers. The two ASLAV-25 fire support vehicles can be seen here. The ASLAV-25 is armed with a 25mm M242 cannon and a coaxial 7.62mm MAG 58 machinegun. A second machine gun can be mounted for air defense purposes.



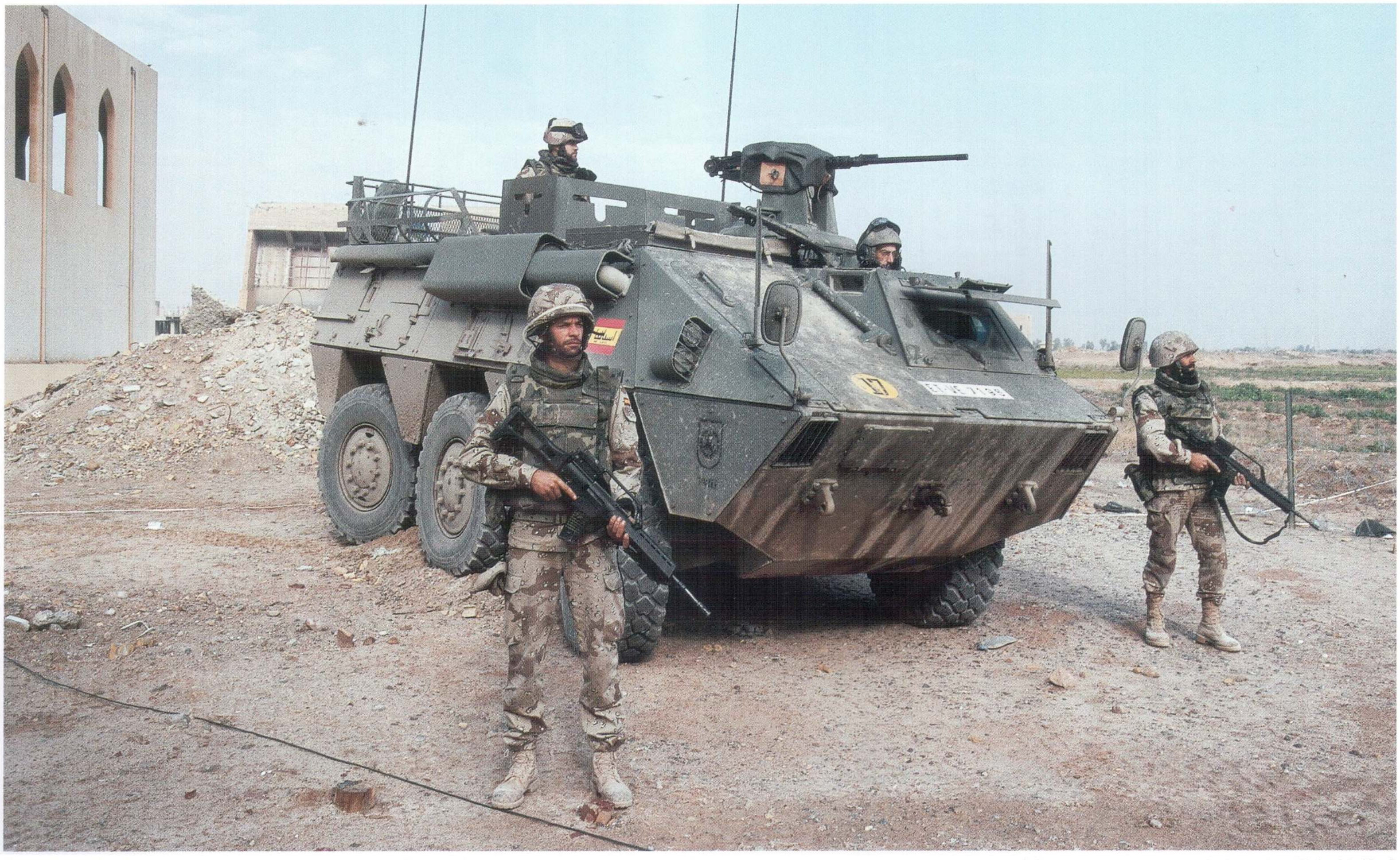


Another contingent under command of MND (CS) is a security company from Mongolia. The unit provides security for the division's logistic base in Al Hillah. The 200-strong unit is equipped with BRDM-2 wheeled armored reconnaissance vehicles. Their infantry weapons include the 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifle, the 7.62mm PKM light machine gun, the 7.62mm SVD sniper rifle, and RPG-7 anti-tank weapons. The soldier in the picture is armed with a 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifle.

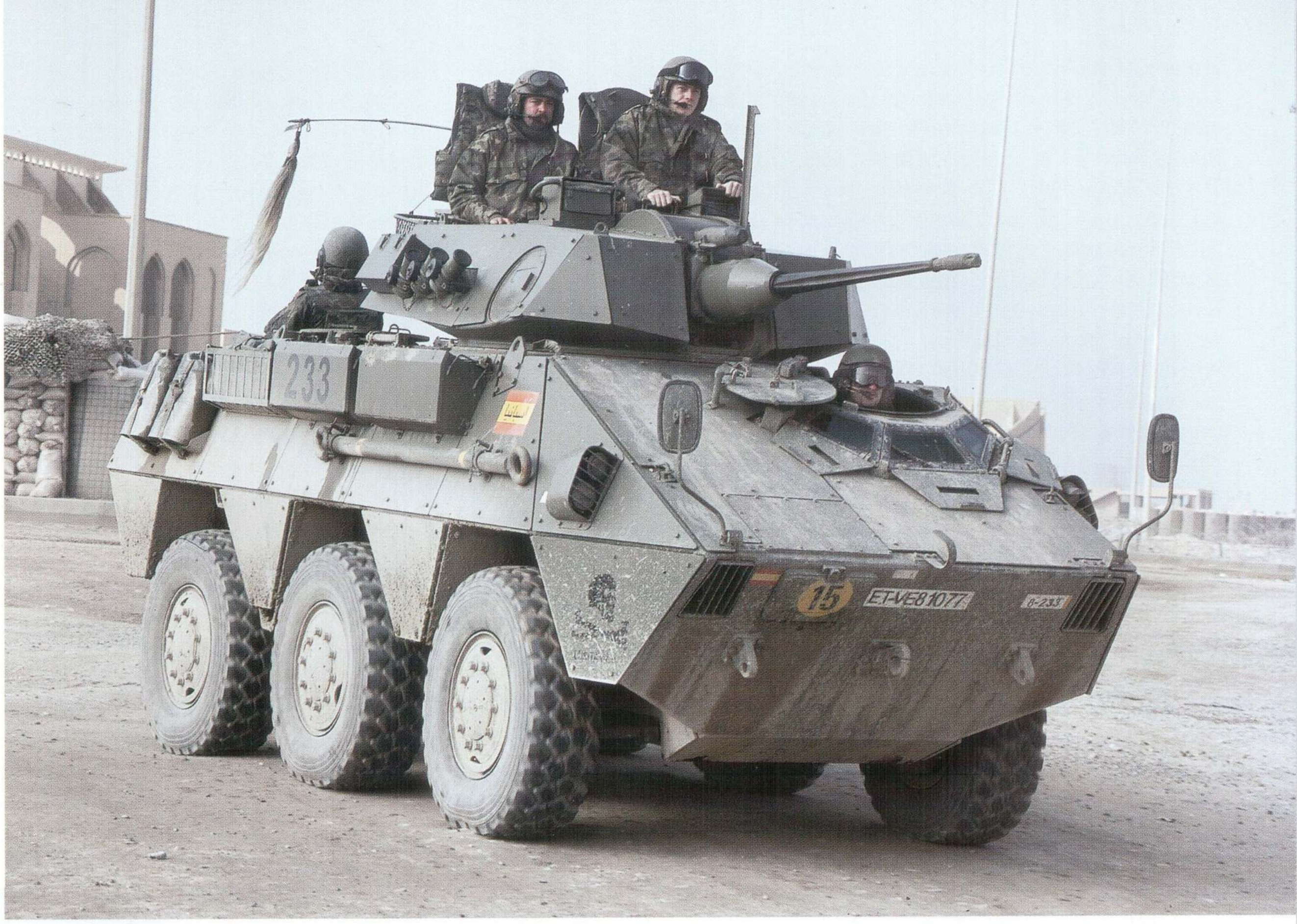


Based in Ad Diwaniyah is the Spanish-led Brigade "Plus Ultra" of the MND (CS). Spain deployed some 1200 troops under the coalition forces in Iraq. The brigade consists of an infantry battalion from Spain, San Salvador, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. Other Spanish assets of the brigade are a brigade headquarters element, a CIMIC element, a medical company, an aviation asset, an armored reconnaissance squadron, a logistic battalion, and a military police company. Here soldiers of the Spanish Legion's Bandera *"Valenzuela" VII are seen on patrol in Ad Diwaniyah.*

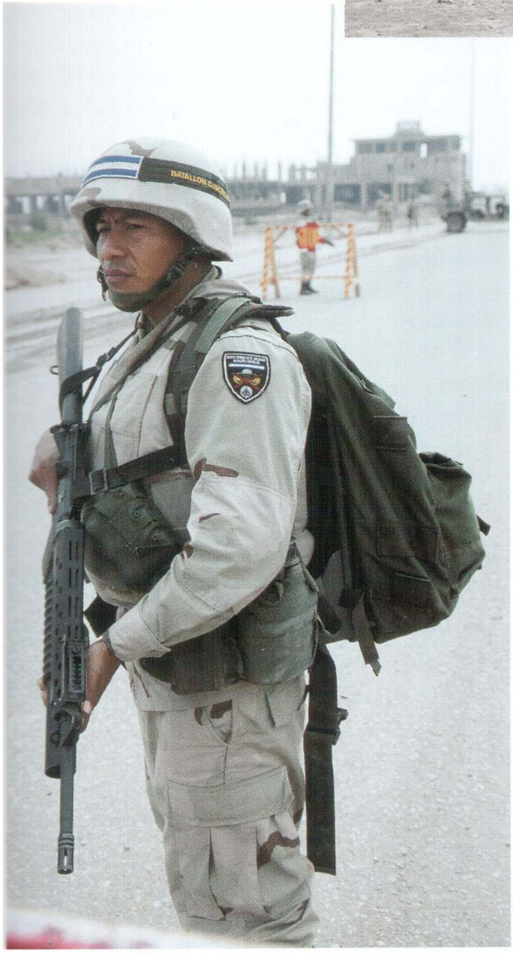
Medics of the Brigade "Plus Ultra" treat a young boy who lost some of the fingers on his left hand when a grenade detonated. Medical care for the local population is only one aspect of CIMIC operations. In addition, the CIMIC units of all coalition nations support the reconstruction of the Iraqi infrastructure, help to build new governmental structures, establish police, fire and medical services, and rebuild the water supply and power supply.



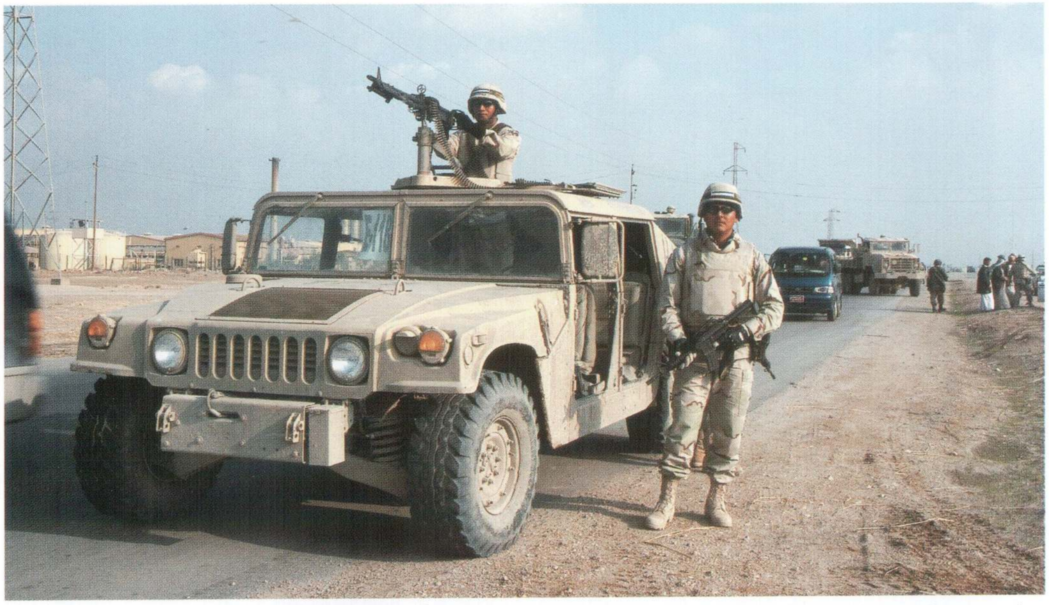
The Spanish troops of the Brigade "Plus Ultra" are mainly drawn from the Spanish Legion and the "Galicia" airborne brigade. This BMR-2 wheeled armored personnel carrier and the dismounted troops belong to the Bandera *"Valenzuela" VII of the Spanish Legion. Recently the Spanish Army introduced the 5.56mm G-36 assault rifle as the standard weapon for its infantry.*



The armored reconnaissance squadron of the Brigade "Plus Ultra" is provided by the "Lusitania" Light Cavalry Regiment. The Spanish unit is equipped with the VEC M-1 wheeled armored reconnaissance vehicle. The VEC M-1 is armed with a 25mm M242 cannon and a coaxial mounted 7.62mm machine gun.



The San Salvadoran infantry battalion under command of the Brigade "Plus Ultra" numbers some 360 soldiers and is stationed in Najaf. The bulk of the soldiers belong to the country's special or airborne forces. Called Battalion "Cuscatlan," the unit is composed of a headquarters company, a command company, two infantry companies, and a force protection company. Here a San Salvadoran soldier armed with a 5.56mm M16A2 fitted with a 40mm M203 grenade launcher mans a vehicle checkpoint.



Like the other Central American units deployed to Iraq, the San Salvadoran forces also received US vehicles and equipment. Here a M1026 HMMWV armament carrier is shown at a vehicle checkpoint. The vehicle is fitted with a 7.62mm M60D machine gun. On the night of the 9/10 December 2003, the San Salvadoran camp (Camp "El Salvador") came under mortar attack by resistance forces. Five rounds landed in the camp but nobody was injured.

Events and Incidents between May and December 2003

(Source: British Army Press Information Office)

May 2003

1st/2nd May 2003: Coalition forces detain Abd al Tawab Mullah Huwaysh, Office of Military Industrialization Director and Taha Muhyl al Din Maruf, Vice President and Revolutionary Command Council member.

2nd /3rd May 2003: The first civilian cargo aircraft lands at Basrah Airport carrying 60 tons of humanitarian supplies. At the Rumaila oilfields, a gas-oil separation plant producing crude oil and liquid petroleum gas is restored.

3rd/4th May 2003: 217 schools are reopened in Baghdad. US forces deliver to a hospital in As Samawah medical supplies sufficient for 10,000 people and three months.

4th/5th May 2003: The power supplies in nine major Iraqi cities matches or exceeds levels existing before the beginning of the conflict. In Baghdad, the 132 kV power system is back on line.

5th/6th May 2003: British forces distribute 14,000 tons of rice from the World Food Program to the people in Umm Qasr.

6th/7th May 2003: Coalition forces detain Ghazi Hammud al-Ubaydi, the former Baath Party Regional Command Chairman of the Al Kut District.

7th/8th May 2003: The British Army sets up a reverse osmosis water purification system in a former presidential palace complex in Basrah to boost the supply of fresh water to the city.

8th/9th May 2003: Coalition forces detain Huba Salih Mahdi Ammash, a Baath Party Regional Command Member and suspected scientist for weapons of mass destruction.

9th/10th May 2003: Three US soldiers die when a US UH-60 utillity helicopter crashes into the Tigris River. Coalition forces begin a forensic examination of a mass grave discovered in As Samawah.

10th/11th May 2003: British troops begin to train police officers for the Basrah police. Like the British troops, US troops also recruit and train local police forces in order to restore security on Iraqi streets.

11th/12th May 2003: Coalition forces detain Rihab Rashid Taha Al-Azzawi Al-Tikrit, suspected head of the Iraqi biological weapons program.

12th/13th May 2003: Six children are killed and others wounded when abandoned Iraqi ordnance explodes at Al Amarah. British medical and EOD teams assist in the aftermath of the incident.

14th/15th May 2003: Troops of the 3rd (US) Infantry Division detain Ibrahim Abd Al-Sattar Muhammad Al-Tikrit, former Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces General Staff and Army. Also detained is Fabil Mahmud Gharib, a former Baath Party Regional chairman.

15th/16th May 2003: British troops hand over the control of Umm Qasr to the newly formed local council. Coalition forces detain Abil Abdallah Mahdi Al Duri Al Tikrit, a Baath Party district chaiman.

16th/17th May 2003: Coalition forces detain General Kamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan Al-Tikriti, former Secretary General of the Republican Guard, and Luay Khayrallah, Saddam Hussein's brother-in-law and a member of the regime security apparatus.

17th/18th May 2003: British forces organize fuel deliveries from Basrah to Al Amarah for civilian use. Work continues in Al Amarah to improve the electrical supply; the supply already exceeds that provided under Saddam Hussein's regime.

19th/20th May 2003: A US Marine Corps helicopter is lost with its crew of four when it crashes into a canal. Another US Marine drowns while attempting to rescue the crew. Coalition forces detain Abdul Ghani Abdul Ghafur, a former presidential special adviser.

20th/21st May 2003: Coalition forces detain Ugla Abid Saqir Al-Kubaysi, a Baath Party Regional Chairman

21st/22nd May 2003: US forces in Baghdad discover and make safe a cache of 31 large SA-3 surface-to-air missiles that are in a dangerous condition and are leaking fuel.

22nd/23rd May 2003: Coalition forces detain Aziz Sajih Al-Numan, a Baath Party Regional Command Chairman and the former Governor of Karbala and An Najaf. In the Kirkuk area, US troops arrange the delivery of 71,000 lbs of medical supplies to a number of hospitals.

23rd/24th May 2003: Two oil refineries in the Baghdad area are restored to operation. The clearance of wrecked aircraft is completed at Baghdad International Airport. Umm Qasr port opened to commercial shipping.

24th/25th May 2003: Coalition forces detain Sayf al-Din al-Mashhadani, Baath Party Regional Chairman for al-Muthanna, and Sad Abd al-Majid al-Faysal, Baath Party Regional Chairman for Salah al-Din.

25th/26th May 2003: Council elections are held in Kirkuk.

26th/27th May 2003: British troops in Basrah arrest a number of individuals involved in large-scale copper scavenging, who had caused serious damage to electrical cabling and had put themselves at risk trying to salvage the metal from unexploded ordnance.

30th/31st May 2003: A humanitarian aid consignment from Jordan arrives at Baghdad International Airport, while a 510-truck World Food Program convoy reaches northern Iraq via Jordan. A separate convoy of 152 vehicles delivers to the Baghdad area.

31st May/1st June 2003: Another truck convoy delivers 9,000 tons of World Food Program humanitarian aid to northern Iraq via Turkey.

June 2003

2nd/3rd June 2003: In a joint military/police operation, the personal bodyguard of Uday Hussein is detained at Kirkuk.

3rd/4th June 2003: Two World Food Program convoys of 247 and 261 trucks, respectively, deliver food aid to northern and central Iraq via Turkey and Jordan. Work on the sewage system in Al Kut enable it to exceed pre-conflict capabilities. Coalition forces detain Ayad Futayyih Khalifa al-Rawi, the al-Quds Chief of Staff.

7th/8th June 2003: 251 World Food Program trucks reach northern Iraq via Turkey.

8th/9th June 2003: 78 World Food Program trucks enter Iraq via Syria. 70% of the barley and wheat harvest is completed in northern Iraq.

10th/11th June 2003: US forces conduct a major security operation against a peninsula on the Tigris held by regime forces. In Baghdad, a cache of forty Seersucker anti-shipping missiles is discovered and secured. Coalition forces detain Latif Nusayyif al-Jasim al-Dulaymi, the Deputy Secretary of the Baath Military Bureau, and Brigadier General Husayn al-Awadi, the Baath Party Regional Chairman for Ninawa.

12th/13th June 2003: A convoy of 222 World Food Program trucks arrives in Baghdad via Jordan. Coalition forces detain Major General Abul Ali Jasmin, the Secretary of the Defense Ministry, and Brigadier General Abdullah Ali Jasmin, head of the Military Academy.

13th/14th June 2003: A US helicopter is lost to enemy fire during operations against resistance forces.

15th to 28th June 2003: Coalition forces of the 4th Infantry Division begin Operation "Desert Scorpion" to eliminate further pockets of resistance in Iraq.

14th/15th June 2003: Coalition forces detain Hamid Raja Shalah al-Tikriti, the former Iraqi Air Force Commander.

15th/16th June 2003: Coalition forces detain General Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, Saddam Hussein's personal aide and National Security Adviser.

19th/20th June 2003: In Basrah, the River Service, which is manned by Iraqi personnel trained by the British forces, is established to conduct security and police patrols along the southern waterways.

24th June 2003: In the morning, a patrol from 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment is attacked at Al Majar Al Kabir, south of Al Amarah. The patrol takes one casualty, and two vehicles are destroyed. An RAF Chinook helicopter carrying a Quick Reaction Force responding to the incident comes under fire as it lands. Seven personnel aboard the helicopter are wounded. Six soldiers from the Royal Military Police are killed in the town.

25th/26th June 2003: UNICEF delivers a year's supply of vaccine to Dahuk medical centers. Troops and Iraqi firemen fight a huge fire at a sulphur plant in Qayyarah, south of Mosul. The firefighting goes on for several days.

26th/27th June 2003: US forces begin recruiting and training Iraqis for border guard and customs service.

29th June to 5th July 2003: US troops launch Operation "Sidewinder" in northern Iraq. The operation is based on conclusions drawn during Operation "Desert Scorpion."

July 2003

1st/2nd July 2003: In Basrah, the Provincial Interim Council holds its inaugural meeting under the auspices of the Coalition Provisional Authority.

5th/6th July 2003: On the afternoon of 5 July, the Interim Council in Basrah elects Judge Wail Abdulateif as Interim Governor of Basrah Province.

8th/9th July 2003: Coalition forces detain Mizban Khadr Al Hadi, a member of the Baath Party Regional Command and Revolutionary Command Council, and Mahmud Dhiyab Al-Ahmad, former Minister of the Interior.

9th/10th July 2003: US forces recover a number of artifacts missing from the Baghdad Museum during a raid on a suspected smuggler.

11th/12th July 2003: Iraqi police take over responsibility for security patrols in Fallujah, with US troops providing a back-up Quick Reaction Force.

17th/18th July 2003: US forces discover a mass grave at Al Hatra, south of Mosul. The US 4th Infantry Division opens a new bridge across the Tigris River.

12th to 18th July 2003: US forces conduct Operations "Soda Mountain" and "Ivy Serpent" north of Baghdad with the aim of destroying hideouts and weapon caches of the resistance forces.

21st/22nd July 2003: US forces complete the training of over 300 Iraqi border guards in northeastern Iraq.

22nd July 2003: Troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Delta Force raid a house on the outskirts of Mosul in the afternoon. Four Iraqis are killed in the ensuing fighting; two of them are subsequently identified as Uday and Qusay Hussein. In Baghdad, coalition forces detain Barzan Abd Al-Ghafur Sulayman Majid Al-Tikrit, former commander of the Special Republican Guard.

August 2003

7th August 2003: The Jordanian embassy in Baghdad becomes a target for a bomb attack. Several people are injured by the massive blast.

8th/9th August 2003: Coalition forces detain Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, former Minister of the Interior.

9th/10th August 2003: Civil disturbances take place in Basrah during the distribution of fuel.

10th/11th August 2003: Some 25 million liters of fuel are delivered by road tanker to Basrah, after unloading from a ship in Umm Qasr, to help alleviate the recent power and fuel shortages in the city. A further 25 road tankers set out from Kuwait for other southern towns.

11th/12th August 2003: US forces, as part of Operation "Ivy Lightning," conduct raids against regime elements in and around the towns of Ain Lalin and Quara Tapa.

13th/14th August 2003: A British soldier is taken ill and dies in southern Iraq on the afternoon of 13 August. The following morning, a military ambulance in Basrah suffers a bomb attack that kills one British serviceman and wounds two others.

15th/16th August 2003: During a search operation in Basrah, which recovers a quantity of small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, British troops find a prematurely born baby girl who had been placed in a metal box. The child is successfully revived and taken to hospital.

16th/17th August 2003: A Danish soldier is killed while on patrol near Al Madinah.

18th/19th August 2003: A large car bomb is detonated at the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August, causing numerous casualties.

19th/20th August 2003: Coalition forces detain Taha Yasin Ramadan al-Jizrawi, former Iraqi Vice President.

21st/22nd August 2003: Coalition forces confirm that they have detained General Ali Hasan al-Majid – "Chemical Al" - the former Revolutionary Command Council Commander. During the war it was reported that he was killed by a US precision-guided bomb and his body identified by a DNA test!

22nd/23rd August 2003: Three soldiers of the Royal Military Police are killed, and one seriously injured, in an incident in central Basrah on the morning of 23 August, when their vehicle is attacked by gunmen.

24th/25th August 2003: Iraqi engineers, assisted and funded by coalition forces, complete a bridge across a canal in Baghdad that had divided a Shia community from its Sunni neighbors for twenty-five years.

27th August 2003: A British soldier is killed and another wounded in an incident following a successful arrest operation in southern Iraq on 27 August. As the patrol from the King's Own Scottish Borderers returns to Al Amarah through the village of Ali Al Sharqi, they confront a crowd and come under fire. A Quick Reaction Force, including medics, is flown to the scene in an RAF Chinook.

29th/30th August 2003: A car bomb outside the shrine of the Imam Ali in An Najaf inflicts multiple fatalities, including the Ayatollah Mohammed Bakr al-Hakim.

September 2003

18th/19th September 2003: The first elections in 35 years are held in the Marsh Arab town of Khamet Bani Said, with Romanian troops providing security.

19th/20th September 2003: Coalition forces detain the former Iraqi Defense Minister, Sultan Hashim Ahmad Al-Jabburi Al-Tai.

22nd/23rd September 2003: In Mosul, responsibility for the Facility Protection Security Force, which supplements the Iraqi police in the Mosul area, is transferred to Iraqi officials.

23rd September 2003: The Multinational Division (South East) hosts a traditional lunch for local sheikhs to allow them to discuss the work of coalition forces with Lt. Gen. Sanchez and Maj. Gen. Lamb. A British soldier is killed in a firearms incident at Shaibah.

October 2003

12th/13th October 2003: A terrorist suicide bomb attack causes numerous civilian casualties in Baghdad.

14th/15th October 2003: The Turkish embassy in Baghdad is the target of a suicide bomb attack.

15th/16th October 2003: British troops conduct raids to arrest a bomb-making team.

25th/26th October 2003: A rocket attack is mounted against the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad.

26th/27th October 2003: The Red Cross headquarters in Baghdad and three police stations become the targets of suicide bomb attacks. A large number of people are killed.

November 2003

31st October/1st November 2003: A Royal Marine is killed by hostile fire during a coalition operation.

2nd/3rd November 2003: A US Army CH-47D transport helicopter crashes, with multiple casualties, as a result of hostile fire.

6th November 2003: A British soldier is killed in a traffic accident in Basrah.

7th/8th November 2003: A US Army UH-60 helicopter is shot down near Tikrit. Six US soldiers on board die.

12th November 2003: A truck bomb explodes at a facility in An Nasiriyah on the morning, inflicting multiple casualties among both Italian personnel and Iraqi civilians. South of Bayji, US troops capture a large arms cache, including 800 BM-21 artillery rockets. A further 150 are seized north of Tikrit.

15th/16th November 2003: Two US Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) crash in Mosul. A total of 17 US soldiers are killed in the incident.

16th to 19th November 2003: US forces of the 4th Infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne Division launch Operation "Ivy Cyclone II" against regime resistance and criminal elements in the areas around Tikrit, Kirkuk, Balad, and Ba'qubah.

21st/22nd November 2003: Two Iraqi police stations, in Ba'qubah and Khan Bani Sad, are attacked by car bombs, resulting in fatalities among Iraqi police and civilians.

29th/30th November 2003: Seven Spanish officers are killed in an ambush in Mahmudiya, and two Japanese diplomats are killed in Tikrit.

December 2003

3rd/4th December 2003: US and Iraqi forces conduct Operation "Bayonet Lightning" against regime resistance members in Kirkuk.

6th/7th December 2003: Italian troops from Multinational Division (South-East) conduct a very successful operation near Al Riffal, which recovers numerous automatic weapons, as well as a large cache of rocket propelled grenade launchers.

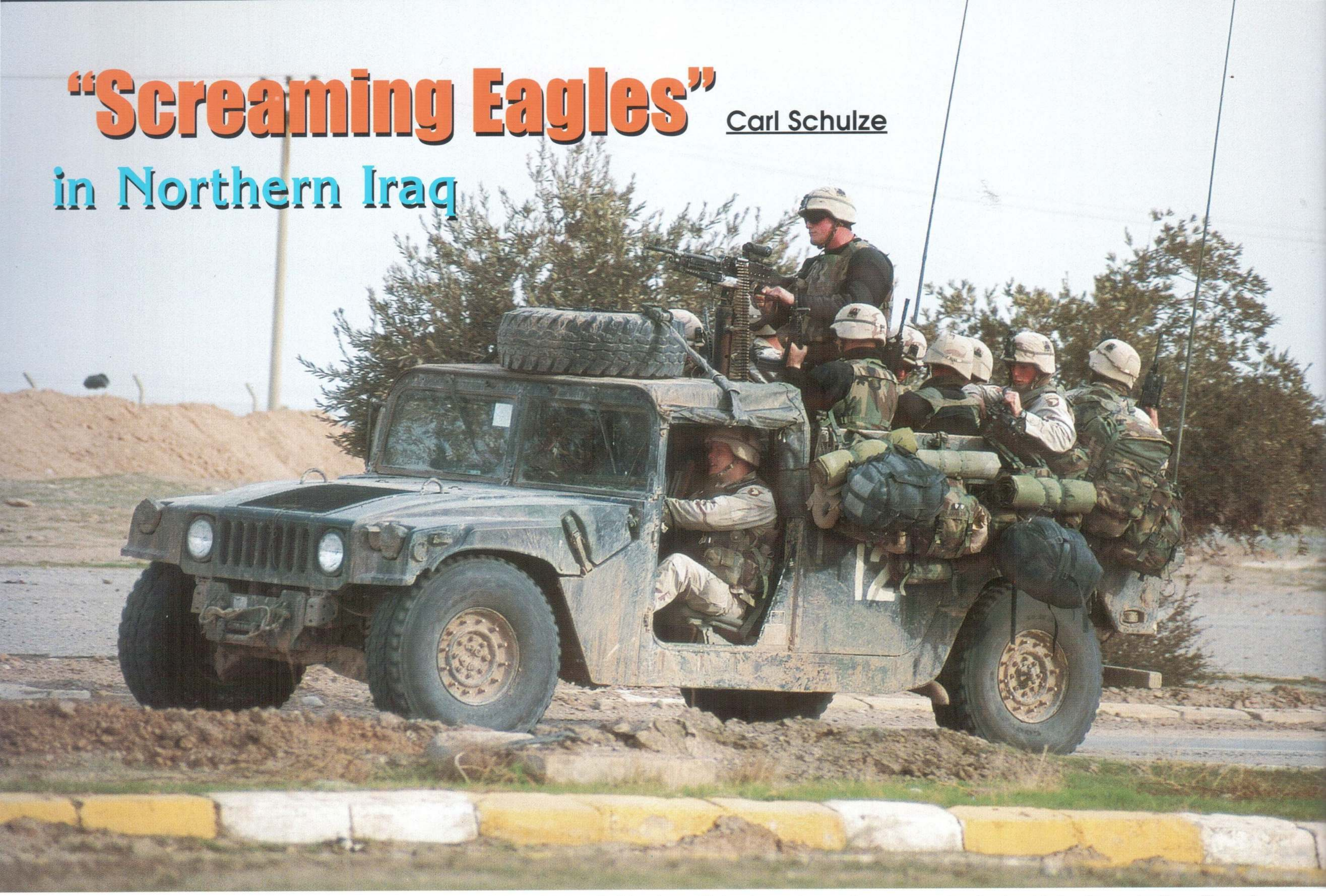
9th December 2003: A suicide bomb attack is attempted against a US base in Mosul.

13th December 2003: US forces capture Saddam Hussein during an operation in a small village south of Tikrit.

27th/28th December 2003: Two Thai and five Bulgarian soldiers, as well as several Iraqi police officers and civilians, are killed in attacks in Karbala. Numerous civilians are injured. A new Regional Police Academy is opened at Az Zubayr, with the aim of training 6,000 police officers during the first six months of 2004, in preparation for the transition of government from the Coalition Provisional Authority to an Iraqi administration.

"Screaming Eagles" in Northern Iraq

Carl Schulze



Because the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is a light unit, it lacks sufficient numbers of armor-protected vehicles for patrolling. Therefore, the "Screaming Eagles" may often be seen patrolling in open soft-topped M 998A1 HMMWVs.

Among the US forces deployed to Iraq in 2003 were some of the crack elite units of the US Army. This included the prime US air assault force, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the famous "Screaming Eagles". The Division deployed to the Gulf region prior to the beginning of Operation "Iraqi Freedom" in March 2003. Since the time the division arrived in theater, it not only took part in some of the heaviest fighting during the initial conflict, but also conducted the longest air assault operation in history. After the war the division moved north to Mosul and gained control of the Area of Responsibility North.

The Division's Mission and AOR

The mission of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as part of Operation "Iraqi Freedom" in Iraq is to conduct combat, stability and support operations in its Area of Responsibility (AOR). This includes the neutralization of anti-coalition forces, the maintenance of a secure and stable environment, and the facilitation of the delivery of basic life support services. In addition, the division is to promote the establishment of government institutions. One of the major objectives of the coalition forces in AOR North, and therefore of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), is to protect the oil installations and oil pipelines. In addition, the troops do their best to bring the oil production back to 100%.

The AOR of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) covers the whole of the north of Iraq and is 75,470 square kilometers in size. It includes the main part of the Iraqi Kurdistan and covers the provinces of Dahuk in the north, Ninawa in the west, Arbil in the east, and As Sulaymaniyah to the southeast. The AOR stretches 214km (133 miles) from north to south and 418km (260 miles) from west to east. The total population of the AOR is 6,870,000 people, of which 2,300,000 live in Mosul, which is one of the three largest cities in Iraq. The AOR has borders with Turkey, Syria and Iran.

In the north of the AOR, around the city of Tell Afar, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team is deployed. The brigade's AOR is 17,000 square kilometers in size and has a population of 800,000 people. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team's AOR is basically the city of Mosul itself. The AOR covers some 4,130 square kilometers and has a population of 2,300,000 people. The 1st Brigade Combat Team is responsible for a 16,800-square-kilometer region south of Mosul in which 870,000 people live. The remaining 39,940 square kilometers, with a population of 2,900,000 people situated to the east and south east of Mosul, is controlled by the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion along with forces of the two main Kurdish political organizations.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) "Screaming Eagles" deployed to the Gulf Region in late February 2003. During the initial war, in March and April 2003, the division saw action in An Najaf, Al Hillah, Karbala, and Baghdad. At the end of April 2003, the division moved further north and took over the AOR around Mosul.

Far from Quiet

Everybody who listens to the news regularly knows that the situation in Iraq is far from quiet. Even in northern Iraq, the AOR of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), which is populated by a large proportion of Kurds, there is unrest. Only some of the incidents in the AOR and achievements of the division are mentioned in the following text. A complete list would extend far beyond the capacity of this publication. All of the incidents mentioned occurred between 1 November and 31 December 2003.

On 7 November 2003, troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) recovered seven SA-7 surface-to-air missiles, six of which were turned in by an Iraqi citizen in Dahuk. Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat

A patrol of the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment "Leader Battalion" stops during a patrol in northern Iraq close to the Syrian border. One of the tasks of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team "Rakkasans" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in northern Iraq is to prevent foreign fighters from crossing the border from Syria into Iraq. Note the "Tori" badge worn by all troops of the "Rakkasans." The soldier in front is armed with a 5.56mm M4A1 carbine.

Troops of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "No Slack" prepare to go out on patrol in the Al Qayyarah region south of Mosul.

Using a 7.62mm M240B machine gun, a "Rakkasan" provides cover for his comrades manning a mobile vehicle checkpoint. The weapon is a variant of the famous FN MAG and has a weight of 11.7kg (26 lb.). The gas-operated machine gun has a combat range of 1200m (1311 yards) and a cyclic rate of fire of 750 to 950 rounds a minute. In the US inventory, the M240B replaced the M60 machine gun.

Team near Qyarrah Airfield discovered the seventh SA-7 during a routine patrol. The round, which was found concealed in high grass, might have been placed there for a planned attack on the brigade's helicopter asset. Two weapons caches were confiscated and 13 individuals were detained during routine patrols conducted by soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Iraqi security forces on 8 November 2003.

Also on 8 November, policemen of the new Sinjar Police force, who were working with US troops, arrested eight people who were conducting an illegal checkpoint the afternoon before. The detainees claimed affiliation with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Further, the Iraqi Border Patrol apprehended two smugglers on the Iraq-Syria border who were attempting to move 15 barrels of gasoline across the border on nine donkeys. The Iraqi border guards and the Mosul and Sinjar police forces received their training from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). These successful operations demonstrated the ability of the Iraqis to conduct security operations in their areas with little or no supervision from the US troops.

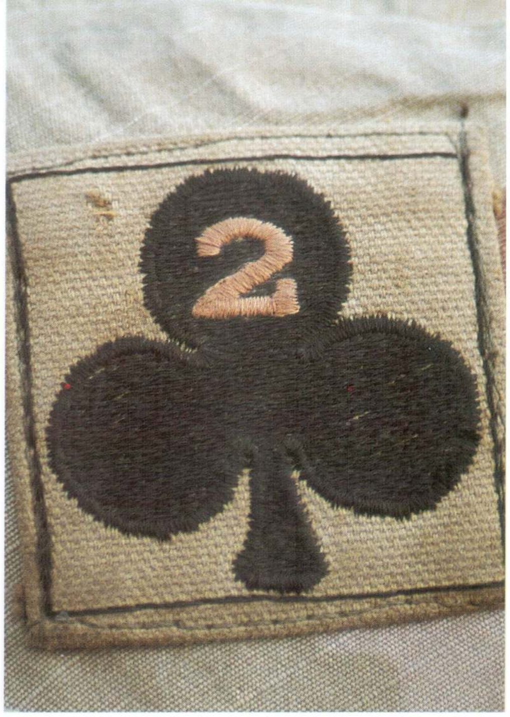
In a separate incident the Coalition for Iraqi National Unity turned in to US forces northwest of Mosul 42 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, two RPG boosters, six RPG rounds, and four heavy machine guns. On 11 November 2003, in a series of overnight raids, soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) captured twenty personnel suspected of violence against US forces. Working with the local Iraqi Police Force and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, the 101st conducted five "cordon-and-knock" raids in Mosul, and one near Tal Afar. (A "cordon-and-knock" raid is a type of raid that begins when air assault troops surround a suspect's hiding place to prevent escape. Then Iraqi elements knock on the door and offer any occupants the opportunity to cooperate with the investigation, which involves a search of the dwelling and detention of the suspect.) Among those captured were four people suspected of playing a role in the death on 1 November 2003 of two 101st Airborne Division soldiers working with the Mosul mayor.

Also, on 11 November 2003, children led troops of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) placed near the Qayyarah Civil Military Operations Center in Mosul. Soldiers of a patrol of the 2nd BCT discovered a third device near one of the five major bridges in Mosul before it exploded. During the same day a civilian turned in to the Division Headquarters in Mosul 68 rocket-propelled grenades, 96 anti-tank RPG warheads, 16 anti-personnel RPG warheads, and 107 RPG propellant charges.

On 14th November 2003, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) detained 14 suspected terrorists during a cordon-and-knock operation. Just after sundown on 14th November 2003 the 2nd Brigade Combat Team apprehended an entire eight-member cell in southwestern Mosul, the leader of which is suspected of plotting to assassinate at least one key coalition leader there. Three more individuals on the division's most wanted list for having conducting attacks on US forces were detained later that evening also in Mosul.

One of the worst incidents in the operational records of the division's Iraq deployment occurred on 15 November 2003 at around 1630 when two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) crashed in west Mosul. Seventeen soldiers died in the crash,

A "Rakkasan" patrols in the northern Iraqi city of Tall Afar. Patrolling is a daily task of the "Screaming Eagles", and usually 200 to 250 patrols are conducted daily.



The soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) wear the "Clubs" badge on their helmets. Troops of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "No Slack" bears their battalion number in the "Clubs" badge.

This soldier from the 1st "Bastogne" Brigade Combat Team was seen during a mounted patrol in the region of the Ash Sharqat oil field. One of the major objectives of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in AOR North is to protect the oil installations and oil pipelines in order to bring oil production back to 100% production.

and 5 were wounded. The wounded were evacuated to the 21st Combat Support Hospital at the Mosul Airfield. One of the helicopters was carrying an aerial quick reaction force; the other was carrying soldiers on a transport mission within the northern Iraq area of operations at the time of the crashes. The aircraft impacted approximately 250 meters (273 yards) from each other in a residential neighborhood.

Two weapons caches were discovered by troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during an aerial reconnaissance of an area two kilometers (1.24 miles) west of the Qayyarah West Airfield on 17 November. The caches contained 20 60mm motor rounds. The Coalition for Iraqi National Unity turned in a variety of weapons to the 101st, including 198 rocket propelled grenade (RPG) rounds, 13 RPG launchers, 16 120mm mortar rounds, three hand grenades, and 57 RPG boosters. In addition, that same day a civilian turned in 46 RPG launchers, 60 hand grenades and fuses, and 50 propellant charges. During cordon-and-knock searches eight individuals were detained .The individuals were suspected of various illegal activities including possessing and dealing in weapons and planning and carrying out attacks against the oil pipeline and pumping stations. The searches also yielded one five-gallon container of gunpowder, three grenades, five fuses, six pistols, two cases of 7.62mm ammunition, one AK-47, and an AK-47 magazine.

On 19 November 2003, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) conducted numerous offensive operations throughout northern Iraq against potential enemy locations, resulting in the detention of 161 individuals suspected of anti-coalition activities. In northern Iraq, the division exercised its unique capabilities by conducting a Brigade Combat Team Air Assault where nearly 500 soldiers simultaneously attacked six objectives100 kilometers (62 miles) from their base of operations. Shortly after dawn, 43 helicopters carried the soldiers to their objective areas in a remote southwestern region of the division's area of operations. The operation, conducted by two battalions from the 327th Infantry Regiment, included raids and searches, setting up traffic control points and blocking positions, all designed to deny passageways used by anti-coalition forces to infiltrate secure areas. The operation resulted in the capture of 86 individuals and the seizure of 49 AK-47s, four machine guns, one heavy machine gun, two sniper rifles, three complete rocket-propelled-grenade systems, 200 detonation devices, two pistols, 35,000 .50-caliber rounds, an unknown amount of 7.62mm rounds, an unknown amount of C4 plastic explosives, and identification papers and passports.

In Mosul, the 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment executed a series of cordon-and-knock searches in the eastern portion of the city. The operation, which targeted Ansar Al Islam suspects and former regime loyalists, resulted in the capture of 65 individuals. Included in the capture was a primary target and main Ansar Al Islam facilitator in Mosul. Additionally, soldiers from 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. Rgt. captured three former regime loyalists at a traffic control point in northwest Mosul. They recognized the vehicle being driven from a target list and were able to apprehend and transport the suspects to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team holding facility. Seven other Iraqis were also taken into custody for various anti-coalition activities, as was a coalition informant suspected of passing information to subversive elements. Another individual who was discovered with an RPG sight and Baath Party propaganda during a cordon-and-knock raid in central Mosul was apprehended. Five additional people in a vehicle were stopped and detained after they had thrown out weapons while passing US soldiers. One soldier from the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) died during an incident when the convoy he belonged to was attacked by an IED in Mosul on 1 November 2003.

The 26th of November 2003 saw troops of the 2nd BCT, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) confiscating an assortment of weapons and detaining nine individuals. The achievements were made during heavy presence patrols and traffic control points in Mosul. Fifteen AK-47 assault rifles, magazines, and two pistols were confiscated. On the same day the division's 3rd BCT detained two suspects for weapons trading and subversive acts against coalition forces. The 1st BCT of the division was also effective during the day. During a cordon and search operation, a patrol of the 1st BCT detained four Iraqis and confiscated four AK-47 assault rifles, two RPG-7 sights, and various components used to create car bombs.

On 28 November 2003 at 1100, the HQ of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), which was located in the center of Mosul in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces, came under mortar attack. One soldier was killed during the attack. Two soldiers of the division were killed while on patrol along the Syrian border on 30 November. Their patrol was attacked by resistance fighters wielding rocket-propelled grenades. During raids conducted on 7 December 2003 by the 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), six suspects were arrested. One of these suspects was arrested by a joint patrol of US soldiers of the

A soldier from the 2nd "Strike" Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) provides cover for his comrades while his unit conducts a knock-and-search operation. He is armed with a 5.56mm M4A1 carbine. Note the "Black Hearts" badge on the right side of his helmet.

1st BCT and members of the Iraqi Police in the Hamman Al Alil district of Mosul. The men were arrested in a house that was earlier used in an RPG attack. Four assault rifles and ammunition were found in that house.

The 2nd BCT arrested five men and found a weapons cache in which 10 RPG-7 rounds, a 60mm-mortar tube, and a pair of night vision goggles were found. On 7 December, troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), in conjunction with Iraqi Police Forces, detained six individuals suspected of involvement in attacks on coalition forces during raids. The arrests were carried out by the 1st BCT during a cordon-and-knock operation in southern Mosul. Later the same day, the brigade captured one person and confiscated four AK-47 assault rifle magazines, binoculars, and communication headsets when a joint patrol with local police searched a house in the town of Hammam Al Alil. The house was the launch site of a rocket-propelled grenade attack that occurred the night before the search. Like the weapon caches found or turned over by cooperative civilians nearly every day, this one included two RPG launchers, 10 RPG rounds, one 60mm mortar tube, and one pair of night vision goggles.

On 8 December 2003 at around 0830 hours, a convoy of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) came under fire from four individuals. One US soldier was killed in the ambush. On 10 December 2003, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) launched Operation "Reindeer Games" in Mosul. The aim of the operation was to arrest 34 former officers in the Iraqi armed forces and regime loyalists suspected of being part of the resistance forces attacking US troops in and around Mosul. The 34 hiding places of the suspects were searched simultaneously by troops of the division, and out of the 34 suspects, 20 were arrested. One was killed when he fired on the US troops during the operation. The operation involved troops from the 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "Above the Rest"; 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment "First Strike"; 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment "Strike Force"; 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment "Widowmakers"; 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment "Red Knights"; and Special Forces elements from Task Force 121.

The division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team detained three people in Mosul for weapons possession on 11 December 2003. Military Police stopped a gray Passat that was on the wanted vehicle list and found that the people inside had four AK-47s, locked and loaded, and five magazines. That same day the brigade detained a person during a cordon-and-search operation near Bartallah and found 2,100 pounds of propellant charge capable of use in making improvised explosive devices. Later the 1st Brigade Combat Team reported that a suspect connected to a rocket propelled grenade attack that occurred on 21 November at the Qayyarah Bridge checkpoint turned himself in after learning that a cordon-and-search operation had been conducted at his home earlier in the day.

This machine gunner, who belongs to the 502nd Infantry Regiment, was photographed at a vehicle checkpoint in Mosul. He is armed with a 7.62mm M240B machine gun mounted on the cargo bay of a M998A1 HMMWV. The sandbags on the vehicle are used to protect the crew from splinters from Improvised Explosive Devices.

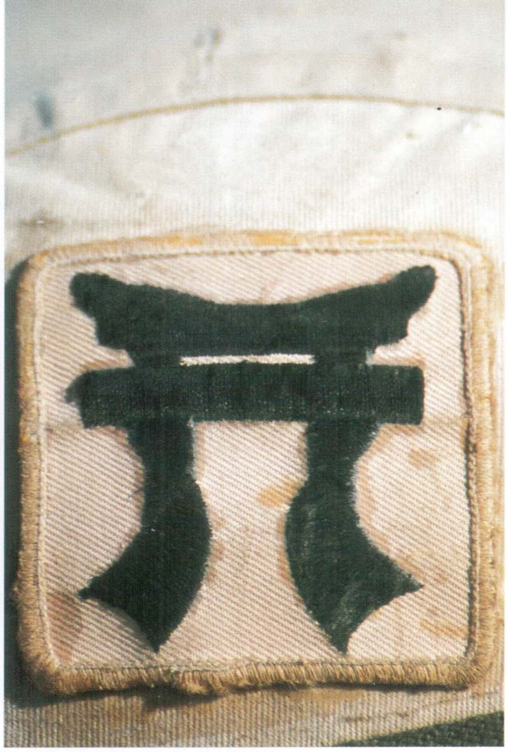
During a pre-dawn raid in Mosul, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team detained two individuals suspected of involvement with the terrorist organization Ansar Al Islam. On 28 December, soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) fought suspected members of the Ansar Al Islam terrorist group in the city of Mosul during a cordon-and-knock operation. When the soldiers attempted to enter the home, the suspects engaged them with small arms fire, and a hand grenade was thrown. The US troops returned fire, then entered and cleared the building. Three terrorists were killed during the operation, and one male, two females and three children were turned over to the Iraqi Police. Two soldiers were wounded in action during the operation. During the fight the house caught fire and was extinguished by the Iraqi Fire Department. In the house the unit discovered and confiscated two rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, 11 RPG rounds, eight grenades, two AK-47s with 1,100 rounds, one 9-millimeter sub-machine gun, $30,000 worth of Iraqi *dinar*, and nine religious books with anti-coalition content.

During three cordon-and-search operations in and around the city of Al Qayyarah, the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) searched for people suspected of carjacking and rocket attacks on 29 December 2003. The brigade found two AK-47 rifles, 43 magazines, more than 1,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, and one 16-round linked belt for a machine gun. Later that day, one of the carjacking suspects turned himself in to Iraqi Police after learning his house had been searched. In Mosul, the 2nd BCT searched a house, detained an individual and confiscated weapons and US property. A patrol conducted the search after spotting empty US Mail packages in the vicinity of the man's house; the unit found HMMWV parts, two AK-47 rifles, and hundreds of pounds of artillery propellant powder.

During a search operation on 30 December in and around Mosul, troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) found several weapon caches. The 1st BCT discovered a cache containing bags with 160 82mm-mortar rounds and 185 60mm-mortar rounds; the ammunition was destroyed in place by an EOD team. In another action during a cordon-and-search operation, eight 60mm rounds were found in the home of a person who is suspected of anti-coalition activities. The 2nd BCT discovered one RPG-7 launcher and 16 rounds for the weapon in eastern Mosul after being informed of the weapon by the local Muktar, a neighborhood religious and community leader. In addition, during the day

This soldier of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "No Slack" is armed with a 5.56mm M249 SAW light machine gun. In a typical infantry squad two soldiers are armed with this weapon, while two other soldiers are armed with the 5.56mm M4A1 carbine fitted with the 40mm M203 grenade launcher. The rest of the squad is armed with only the 5.56mm M4A1 carbine. Note the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) "Screaming Eagle" patch worn on the soldier's left upper sleeve.

In addition to using tactical vehicles, the US forces in Iraq employ countless civilian pick-ups and cross-country vehicles as transportation. Here a "Rakkasan" belonging to the brigade commander's bodyguard relaxes while his General takes part in a meeting. The soldier is armed with a 5.56mm M249 Squad Assault Weapon.



The "Tori" badge is worn by all troops of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team "Rakkasans", 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The brigade consists of the 1st Battalion "Leader Battalion", 2nd Battalion "Raider Rakkasans," and 3rd Battalion "Iron Rakkasans" of the 187th Infantry Regiment.

a former high-level Baath party leader handed in to the troops of the 3rd BCT seven 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifles and 14 magazines. In another instance, locals handed over to the troops 50 hand grenades, eight RPG-7 launchers, 34 RPG rocket-propelled grenades, three surface-to-air missiles, a 120mm mortar and ammunition, as well as night vision scopes for rifles.

Coalition Forces in Northern Iraq

There are a total of 36,898 troops operating in AOR North under command of the headquarters of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Of these some 15,000 came from Fort Campbell and belong to the division's integral units. These include the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company; the DISCOM (Division Support Command) "Lifeliners"; the 1st Brigade "Bastogne", 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); the 2nd Brigade "Strike", 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); the 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans", 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); the Division Artillery "Guns of Glory", 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); the 159th Aviation Brigade; and the 101st Aviation Brigade.

There are 3000 troops from the 3rd COSCOM (Corps Support Command) attached for logistic support of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Another 2500 US soldiers under command of the division belong to additional assets subordinated under the division's command. Basically, these are the troops of the 926th Engineer Group; the 503rd Military Police Battalion; and C Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment. The remaining 15,600 troops are members of the forces of the Kurdish political parties, Iraqi Civil Defence Corps, and the Facility Protection Service.

A Typical Day in AOR North

During a typical day of operations in northern Iraq, the 15,000 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) usually conduct 200 to 250 patrols of different kinds. Among these are included some 45 joint patrols with troops of the ICDC or the Iraqi Police. In order to provide security along the roads, the troops establish daily some 37 vehicle checkpoints. Six to eight cordon-and-search operations, as well as cordon-and-knock operations, are usually conducted each day. All of these operations are conducted to counter the activities of the Iraqi resistance, and approximately 11 suspects are arrested daily. During the night, the artillery units use their surveillance equipment to monitor Mosul and other cities in northern Iraq. During the curfew, any prohibited movement can easily be detected using the highly sensitive radar equipment of the artillery. Then infantry patrols are sent out to check the area for hostile activity.

A daily rate of six to eight hostile contacts, including ambushes, drive-by shootings, improvised explosive devices, and suicide attacks, is routine. Meetings between civil and military authorities are conducted at a daily rate of eight on division level and 16 to 20 on brigade and battalion level. Each day the troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) clear between two and five weapon and ammo caches. By 15 December 2003, a total of 1259 had been located. In addition, EOD teams and engineers clear two unexploded ordnance sights every day, with a total of 715 being cleared by 15 December.

In addition to soft-skinned HMMWVs, the troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) field a number of M1025 HMMWV armament carriers with basic armor. The vehicle is armed with a 5.56mm M249 Squad Assault Weapon and a 40mm Mk.19 automatic grenade launcher. This vehicle belongs to the 2nd "Strike" Brigade Combat Team in Mosul.

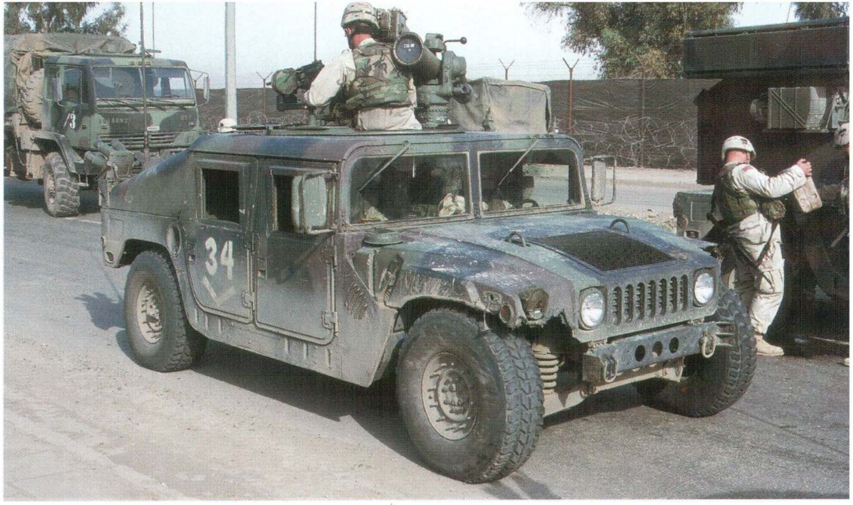
A machine gunner monitors passing traffic from the cargo bay of a M998A1 HMMWV troop and cargo carrier while his comrades conduct a vehicle search. The vehicle belongs to the 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Every day the "Screaming Eagles" escort up to 272 fuel trucks, which are usually drawn together to convoys of 20 or more vehicles. Other daily tasks include the training of the Police, Border Guards, Correction Officers, Facility Protection Service Forces, Iraqi Civil Defence Forces, Fire Fighters, Police Investigators, and SWAT Teams. All in all, about 10 classes are held daily.

Aftermath of a Suicide Attack

On 9 December 2003, the US base in the center of Al Tall Afar, 45km (28 miles) west of Mosul, became the target of a suicide attack carried out by a truck loaded with explosives. When the truck broke through the first gate, Specialist Ross was the first and only soldier among the "Rakkasans" to react immediately. From his position in the watchtower he opened fire with his 5.56mm M249 Squad Assault Weapon, and the machine gun fire killed the driver. The truck lost speed and veered from its initial direction. It was at this moment that the second terrorist managed to ignite the bomb. Because this was done earlier than planned, the 455kg (283 lb.) of explosives in the truck exploded outside the gate rather then inside. In the ensuing explosion, parts of the camp were destroyed and 66 soldiers were wounded, some of them badly. If the vehicle had reached its destination, it would probably have caused a high death toll.

This "Rakkasan" from the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment is armed with a 5.56mm M4A1 carbine and wears Interceptor Body Armor (IBA).



This M966A1 HMMWV TOW missile carrier with basic armor, which belongs to the 2nd "Strike" Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), was seen somewhere in Mosul. Each of the three infantry battalions in a Brigade Combat Team can field 20 M996A1 HMMWVs with TOW. On 22 July 2003, during the storming of the hideout of Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay Hussein, M966A1 HMMWV TOW missile carriers with basic armor fired several TOW missiles to create break-in points in the fortified building.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "No Slack" relax while on guard at the gate of their base. Both soldiers are armed with the 5.56mm M4A1 carbine fitted with the AN/PEQ 4 infrared target pointer and M68 sight.

On 13 December, 53 of the wounded "Rakkasans" were awarded the Purple Heart in a small ceremony on the site of the incident. For his action during the attack, Specialist Ross of B Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Bronze Star with valour in the same ceremony.

During their deployment in Iraq, the US soldiers receive additional payment called "Hazardous Duty Pay". The troops have nicknamed the 250 US dollars "Combat Pay." In addition, each soldier in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) will receive 30 days of block leave after the division returns from the one-year deployment to Iraq in the spring of 2004.

From a bunker at a base of the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment in Tall Afar, a sentry keeps watch at the base entrance. Base security for US installations in Iraq is very high. The security precautions are a result of the countless suicide attacks conducted by resistance forces against the camps of US and coalition forces. The worst attack was aimed at the Italian camp in An Nasiriyah on 12 November 2003 during which 19 Italian soldiers were killed.

It was from this position in the guard tower that Specialist Ross engaged the explosive-filled truck of the suicide bombers on 9 December. His action saved the life of 66 of his comrades, who were only wounded instead of killed because he caused the truck to explode prematurely. The "Tori" badge, which is painted in red on the tower, was adopted along with the nickname "Rakkasans" by the 187th Infantry Regiment during its time as an occupation force in Japan after World War II.

History of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) "Screaming Eagles"

The 101st Airborne Division was activated on 15 August 1942, and Major General William C. Lee was assigned as first commander. The task of the division was to execute a bold concept of delivering highly trained and fiercely dedicated soldiers deep behind enemy lines by the use of parachutes and gliders. General William C. Lee promised to the new soldiers of his division that despite "[h]aving no history, the division has an rendezvous with destiny." The words "rendezvous with destiny" have since become the division's motto.

After deploying to Europe in 1944, the division saw action in some of the most important allied operations against Hitler's Germany. The division first saw combat on 6 June 1944 when 6700 of its troops spearheaded the allied landings in Normandy. The division dropped by parachute behind the German coastal defenses, secured crossroads, attacked artillery positions, and secured tactically important territory, thereby preventing a German counterattack against the Allied landing zones at the beaches. Only three months later the division again dropped into a combat operation. This time it was during Operation "Market Garden" in the Netherlands, taking vital bridges over several rivers in preparation of the advance of the 30th British Corps.

In December 1944, the division saw some of its heaviest fighting when deployed to Bastogne in the Ardennes in order to counter a German offensive. For its action after being surrounded by German forces and holding the important town for 10 days until reinforcements arrived, the division received the Presidential Unit Citation. The 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles" was the first unit to receive the award as a whole division. In May 1945, the division captured Hitler's "Eagles Nest" in Berchtesgaden. In November 1945, the division was inactivated in Auxerre in France.

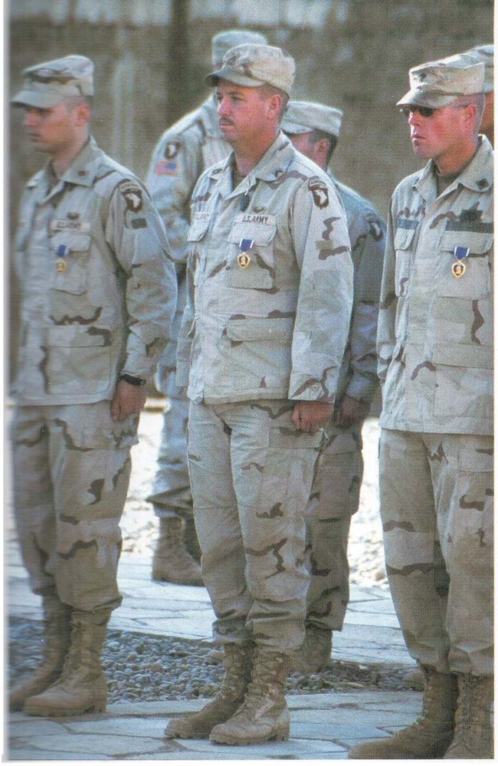
Between 1948 and 1949, as well as between 1950 and 1953, the division was reactivated as a training division in camp Breckenridge. Though the division did not take part in the Korean War, one of its current units, the 187th Infantry Regiment "Rakkasans," served as the theater reserve force and conducted the only two airborne assaults during the conflict. The 101st Airborne Division was reactivated in 1954, and in 1956 it was transferred from Fort Jackson, South Carolina to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where the division is still based today. In 1965, the division began to deploy to the Republic of Vietnam. While the 1st Brigade deployed in 1965, the remaining troops of the division arrived just at the beginning of the "Tet Offensive." Used as an airmobile force, the division took part in 15 campaigns during the Vietnam War. In 1968, the division was re-rolled into an air assault division and received helicopters as an integral operational asset. In 1972, the Screaming Eagles were the last US combat division to leave Vietnam.

In February 1974, Major General Sidney B. Berry, the Commanding General, authorized the wearing of the Airmobile Badge, and on 4 October 1974, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile) became the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). In March 1982, elements of the 101st began a six-month peacekeeping tour of duty in the Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers. The next time the division went to war was in 1990 when the unit deployed to Saudi Arabia as an US answer to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces. Operation "Desert Shield," the defense against future Iraqi aggression, was spearheaded by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and led to Operation "Desert Storm," the liberation of Kuwait.

AH-64A Apaches from the division fired the first shots of the 1991 Gulf War when they attacked vital Iraqi air defense positions in order to clear the way for the massive air campaign on 17 January 1991. Several weeks later, during the ground campaign, the division conducted the longest and largest air assault operation in enemy territory ever conducted in history. More than 2,000 men, 50 transport vehicles, artillery, and tons of fuel and ammunition were airlifted 50 miles into Iraq.

In the late 1990s, the division deployed troops on peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. From November 2001 onward, the division's reinforced 3rd Brigade saw action in Afghanistan fighting troops of the Taliban and Al Quida terrorists. During the Afghanistan deployment, 19 soldiers of the division received the highest award for bravery, the Medal of Honor, ten of which were awarded posthumously.

Today the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is still the only division-size air assault unit in the world.



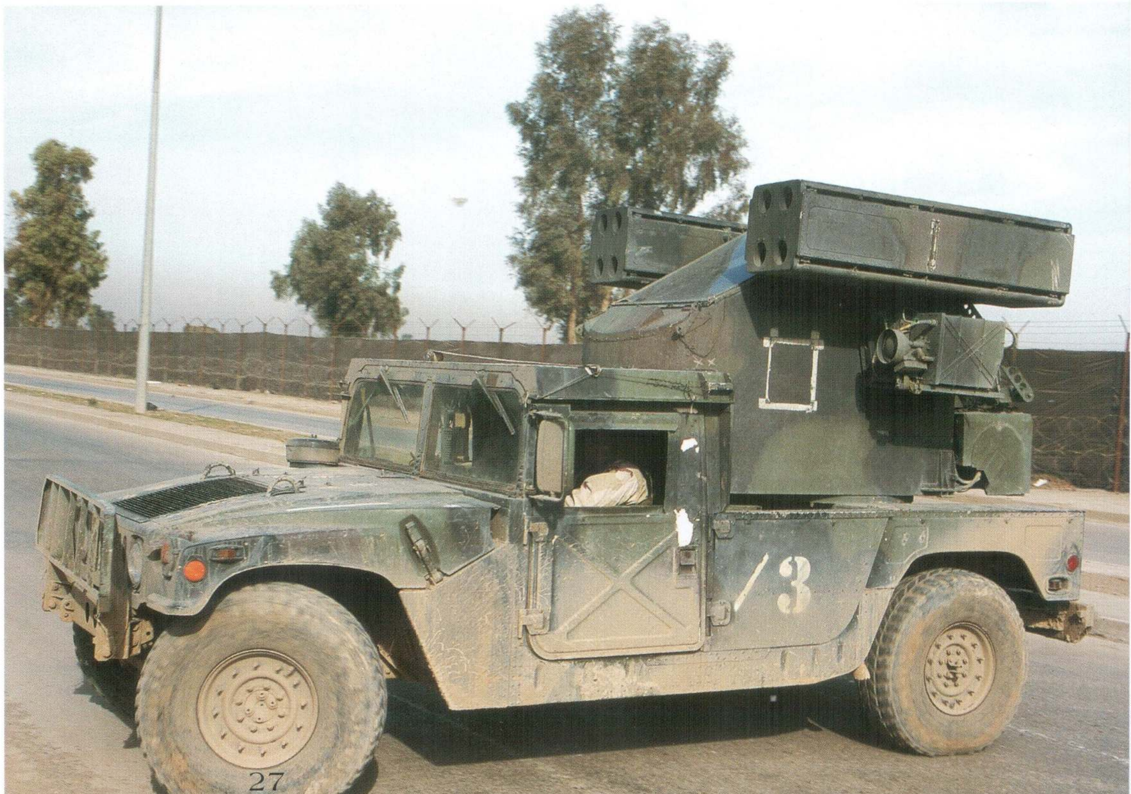
On 13 December, 53 of the wounded "Rakkasans" of the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment were given the "Purple Heart" in a small ceremony on the site of the incident. For his action during the attack, Specialist Ross of B Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Bronze Star with valor in the same ceremony. Here some of the troops are seen just after they received the medal.

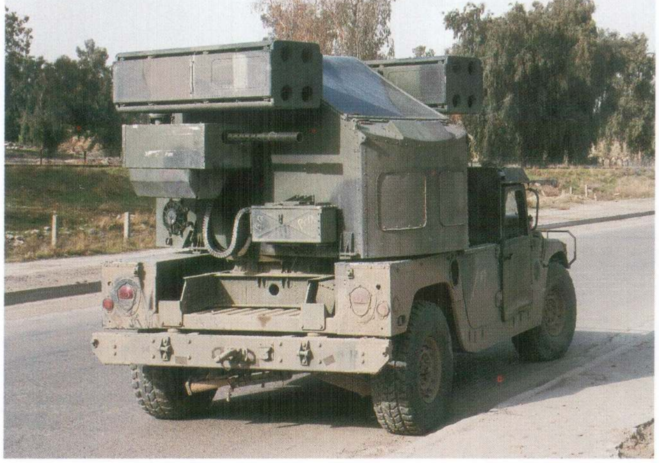
Close up of a "Purple Heart" presented to one of the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 187th Airborne Regiment on 13 December 2003. A total of 53 "Purple Hearts" were awarded to soldiers of the "Rakkasans" wounded in the suicide attack.

The Avenger Air Defense Missile System's FN Herstal SA 12.7mm machine gun fitted co-axially to its SAM launcher is well suited for the job of supporting infantry. The machine gun has a cyclic rate of 1100 round a minute. The Avenger is based on the chassis of the M1037 HMMWV shelter carrier. The vehicle has a combat weight of 3900kg (8600 lb.) and can reach a top speed of 105km/h (65 mph).

Units of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) "Screaming Eagles"

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company	
2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Regiment	44 Avenger
86th Combat Support Hospital	
326th Engineer Battalion "Sapper Eagle"	
311th Military Intelligence Battalion "Eyes of the Eagle"	
501st Signal Battalion "Voice of the Eagle"	
* 1st Brigade "Bastogne", 101st Airborne Division	
1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "Above the Rest"	
2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "No Slack"	
3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment "Battle Force"	
* 2nd Brigade "Strike", 101st Airborne Division	
1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment "First Strike"	
2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment "Strike Force"	
3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment "Widowmakers"	
* 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans", 101st Airborne Division	
1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment "Leader Battalion"	
2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment "Raider Rakkasans"	
3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment "Iron Rakkasans"	
* 101st Aviation Brigade	
2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment "Out Front"	32OH-58D
1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Expert of Mercy"	24 AH-64D
2nd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Eagle Warrior"	24 AH-64D
3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Eagle Attack"	24 AH-64D
6th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Shadow of the Eagle"	24 UH-60
* 159th Aviation Brigade	
4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Wings of the Eagle"	24 UH-60
5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Eagle Assault"	30 UH-60L
7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Eagles Lift"	48 CH-47D
9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment "Eagle Strike"	30 UH-60
* Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division "Guns of Glory"	
1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment "Top Gun"	18 M119
2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment "Balls of the Eagle"	18 M119
3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment "Red Knight"	18 M119
* Division Support Command "Lifeliners"	
63rd Chemical Company	
8th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment	
426th Forward Support Battalion	
526th Forward Support Battalion	
626th Forward Support Battalion	
801st Main Support Battalion	





The Avenger Air Defense Missile System was originally designed to use FIM 92C Stinger SAMs to protect combat troops against the threat of enemy aircraft conducting a ground attack. In Iraq, the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) has a totally different task. The 44 Avengers of the battalion are used to provide the infantry with support fire.

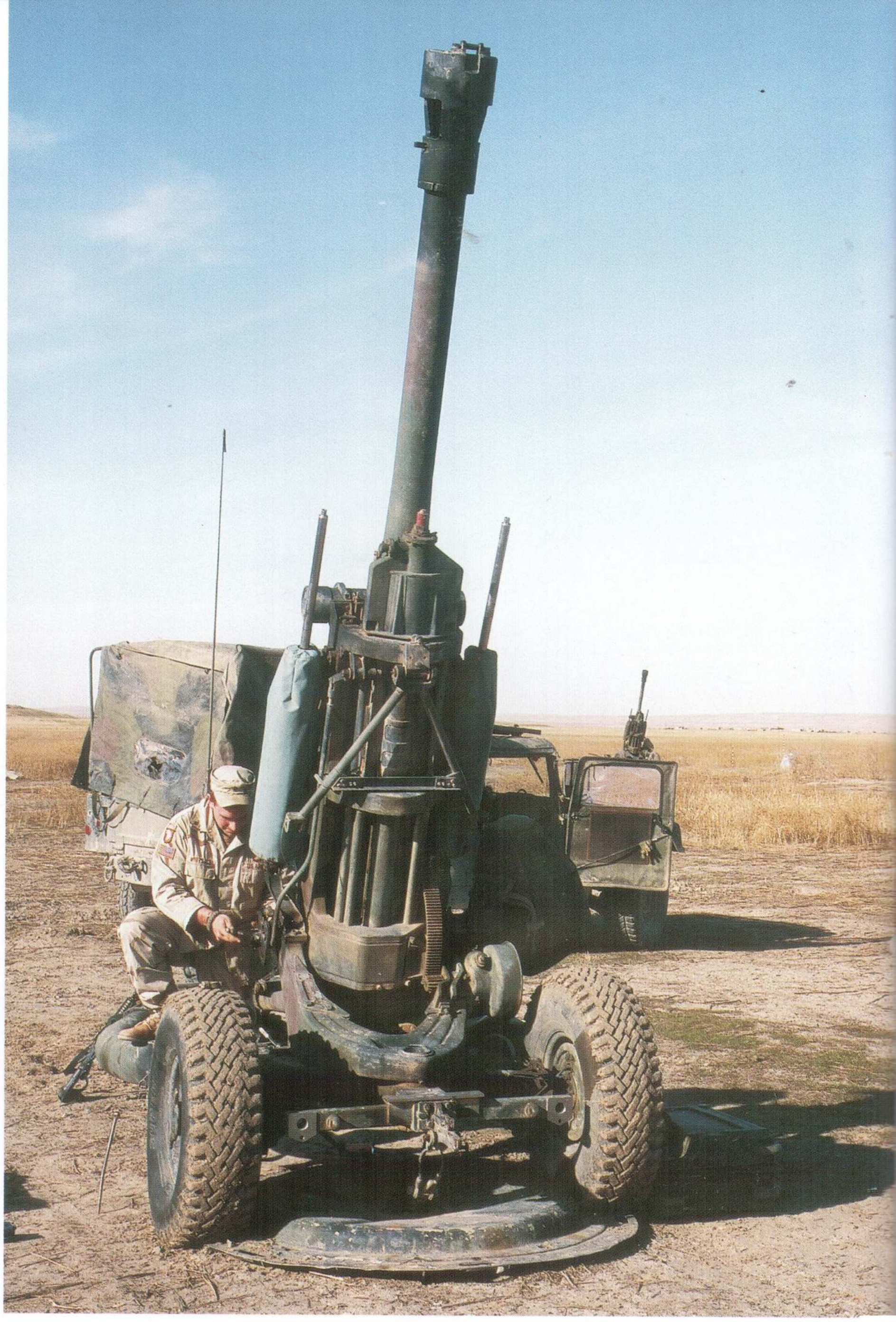
Construction of Brigade Combat Team (BCT)

The main combat force of the BCT is composed of the brigade's three air assault infantry battalions. Each of these battalions can field a total of 39 infantry squads with an impressive firepower. The battalions also include an anti-tank platoon with 20 HMMWVs fitted with the TOW anti-tank missile system and a mortar platoon with four 81mm M252 mortars. Other crew-served weapons used in the battalion are six 60mm M224 mortars, 18 Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, 14 40mm Mk.19 automatic grenade launchers, and 14 12.7mm M2 HB heavy machine guns.

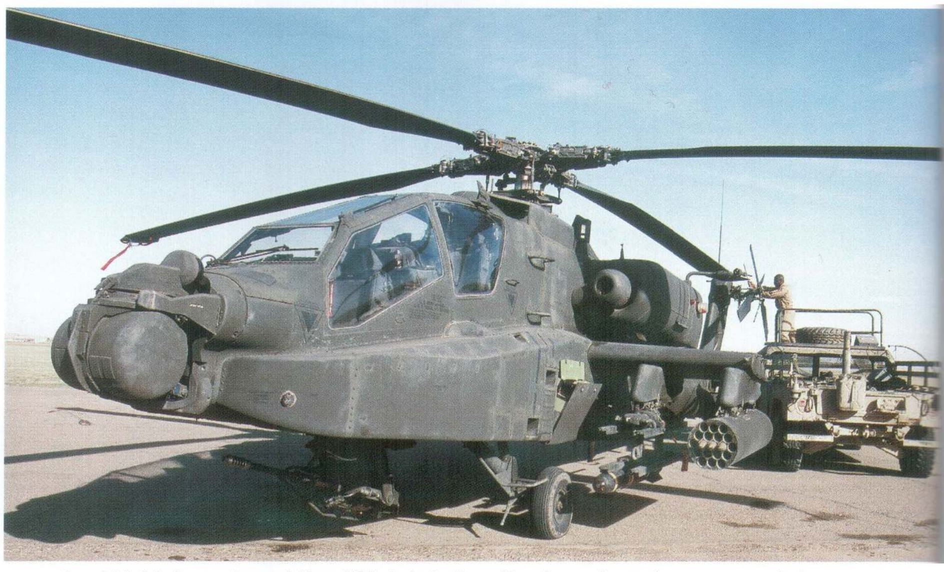
Small arms used by the eight-men-strong squads of the air assault troops include the 9mm M9 Beretta 92F pistol, the 5.56mm M16A3 assault rifle, the 5.56mm M4A1 carbine, the 5.56mm M249 SAW light machine gun, and the 7.62mm M240 medium machine gun. In addition, the 84mm M136 light anti-tank weapon is used on the squad level. Smoke and fragmentation hand grenades complete the squad's weapon arsenal. Artillery support for the BCT is provided by a Field Artillery Battalion with 18 105mm M198 Light Guns.

In addition, the battalion can field one Q36 battlefield-surveillance radar system. Air transport capability for the BCT is provided by an Assault Aviation Battalion with 45 UH-60L Black Hawk utility helicopters, a Medium Lift Aviation Company with 16 CH-47D Chinook transport helicopters, and a General Support Aviation Company with 8 UH-60A and UH-60L utility helicopters. Air combat support is provided by the BCT's own Attack Aviation Battalion with 24 AH-64D Longbow Apache Attack helicopters.

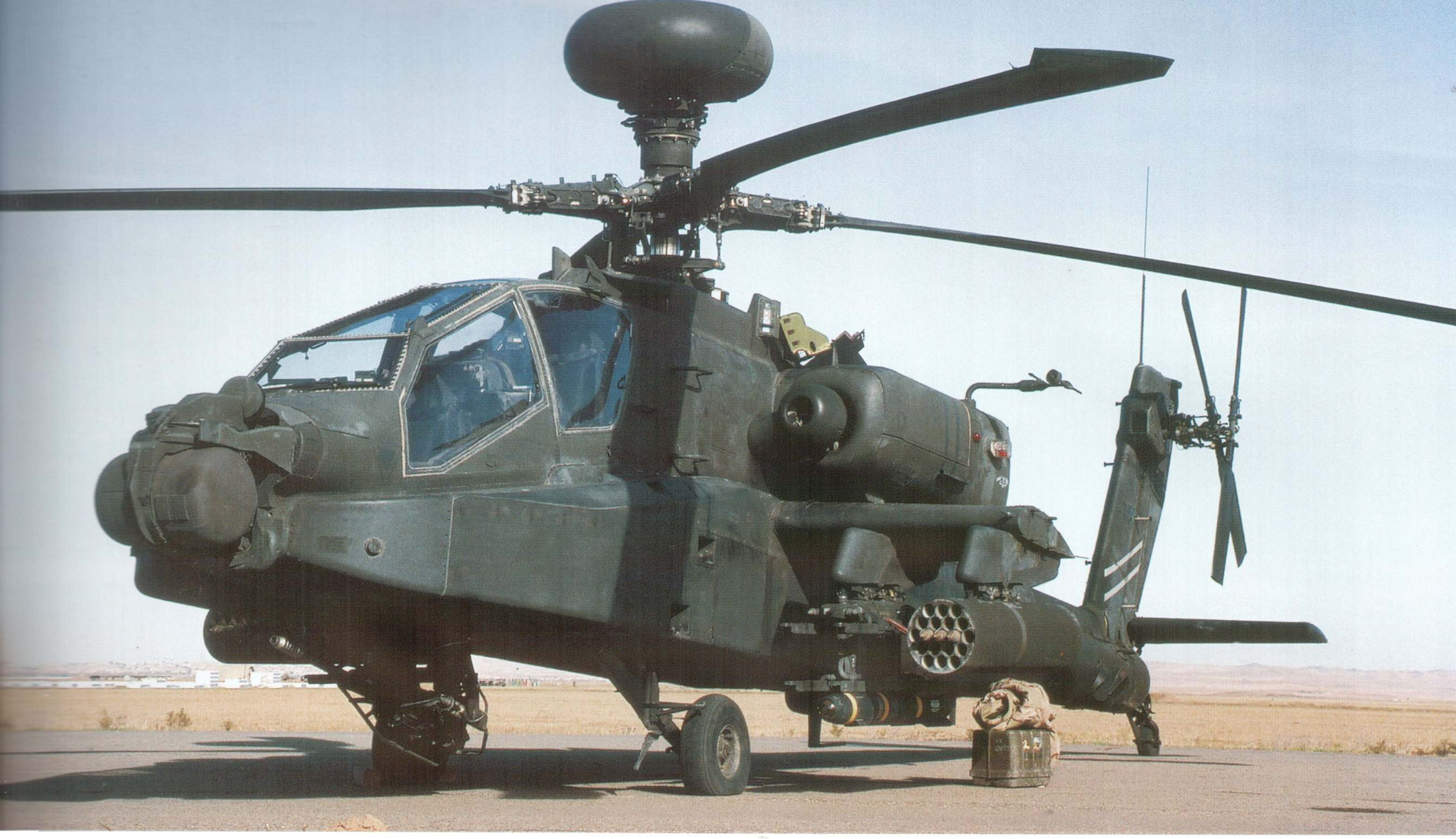
For close-range air defense, the BCT has an Air Defense Artillery company under its command. The unit is equipped with 9 Avenger air defense systems, 15 Stinger air defense missile man pads, and two Sentinel Radars. Logistic support for the BCT is provided by the brigade's own logistic support asset, the Forward Support Battalion (FSB). Mounted on the logistic vehicles of the unit for self-defense purposes are 42 40mm Mk.19 automatic grenade launchers and 42 12.7mm M2 HB machine guns. Other elements of the brigade combat team are the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company, a military intelligence company, an engineer company, a signal platoon, an NBC defense platoon, and a military police platoon.



The three battalions of the 320th Field Artillery Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are each equipped with 18 105mm M119 Light Guns. Here gunners are seen during maintenance work at a firebase at the Tall Afar airbase in northern Iraq. Together with surveillance and target acquisition radar, the 105mm M119 Light Guns are used to counter mortar attacks of the resistance forces.



An AH-64 Apache of the 101st Aviation Regiment undergoes maintenance work. Its chin mounted 30mm M230A1 chain gun is seen lying on the ground.



In addition to its 30mm M230A1 chain gun, the AH-64D helicopter can be equipped with a selection of missiles. This helicopter is fitted with only a portion of its typical load of eight Hellfire missiles and two rocket pods, each with 38 Hydra 70 unguided missiles.

Four battalions of the two aviation brigades of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) use the UH-60 Black Hawk utility helicopter. The division can field 108 UH-60 and UH-60L choppers. During its deployment to northern Iraq, the division lost some of their UH-60 to fire from resistance forces or in accidents.

Two OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters of the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment "Out Front" are parked in a base of the 2nd "Strike" Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) somewhere in Mosul. The OH-58D Kiowa Warrior is used mainly at night to control the streets of Mosul. The "Screaming Eagles" fly the helicopters like giant bats over the ancient city and use their reconnaissance and surveillance equipment to detect Iraq resistance forces. In January 2004, the crew of an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior was killed when their helicopter crashed and sank in the Tigris River.

The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter can transport up to 14 fully equipped troops or 3632kg (8000 lb.) of cargo. Note that the pictured aircraft is armed with two 7.62mm M-60D machineguns at its side doors.

Multinational Division (Central South)

Yves Debay

Poland is the nation in command of MND (CS). The country has 2366 troops deployed to Iraq, the bulk of which is based in Al Hillah around the historic ruins of Babylon and in Karbala. Here a section of the 10th Mechanized Battalion poses for the camera. The troops are armed with the 5.56mm Beryl assault rifle, the 7.62mm Sako TRG 22 sniper rifle, and the 7.62mm PKMP machine gun. (Carl Schulze)

With 19 nations operating within it, the Multinational Division (Central South), which makes up a portion of the coalition forces in Iraq, truly deserves the nickname "Tower of Babel" Division. It was made even more deserving of it by a recent historical irony: the divisional headquarters now occupies the site of the famous ancient city of Babylon, where the legendary tower was erected, resulting in the people of the earth losing their original shared language. The symbol is a strong one, and it is tempting to compare this hodgepodge division with the people who challenged God and reason by building a structure that was doomed to collapse.

To command a division of soldiers that speak 19 languages and whose cultures range from Thai to Nicaraguan was a challenge that was eagerly accepted by Major General Andrzej Tyszkiewicz, deputy to the Polish Army Chief of Staff, who was given the responsibility to command the division on 3 September, 2003. That day was doubtless an historic date for the Polish Army, which solidified Warsaw's commitment to the coalition forces by relieving the Marines of the 1st MEF (Marine Expeditionary Force) in the center of Iraq. For the first time since its entry into NATO in 1999, Poland was entrusted with an important command, even though Operation "Iraqi Freedom" is not technically a NATO operation and she may even risk splitting up as a result.

A brief explanation of NATO's current function is necessary to understand the difficulties related to Poland's commitment. During the Atlantic Alliance summit in Brussels in 1994, the concept was born for a NATO CJTF (Combined Joint Task Force) inspired by the American doctrine of the US Joint Task Force, but applied to the 19 nations of the Alliance. The creation of this new concept resulted simply from political changes created by the collapse of the Eastern communist bloc and the need for the Atlantic Alliance to be able to leave its geographic setting.

From Stettin to Babylon

The 12th Mechanized Division from Stettin is going to have to supply the staff and support elements for the MND (CS), under Polish command and depending directly on the CJTF-7 (Combat Joint Task Force7), which is in charge of carrying out the military operations of the coalition in Iraq. Normally, the 12th Mechanized Division, the large component of the Polish Rapid Reaction Force, is part of the Multinational Corps North East (MNC-NE) that consists of three divisions (Germany, Poland and Denmark) and which, in the Baltic region, replaced the old Land-Jut (Land-Jutland) Command of the Cold War. In other words, for the Poles who are new to the Alliance and who are used to working with the old guard of NATO (like the Germans and the Danish), handling the command of a large multinational unit is quite a challenge.

In light of Berlin's attitude toward the conflict, there will naturally be no *Bundeswehr* officers present at the divisional headquarters in Iraq, contrary to what was seen recently during a large NATO exercise (1). The Poles are going to have to manage the administration of the "Tower of Babel" Division by themselves, though it is true that the Americans are never very far away and can quickly deploy troops to the MND (CS) sector. Such was the case during Operations "Grierson I" and "Grierson II", which were launched in September 2003 by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), who came down from northern Iraq.

Besides Poland and Spain, both unconditional allies of the coalition, MND (CS) contains a number of small countries who found in the commitment in Iraq an inexpensive opportunity to gain peacekeeping experience. One can doubt the real military value of certain of the continents, but from the viewpoint of the Americans they preserve the advantage of holding the ground. At the same time, they free up US soldiers to deploy to "hot" sectors while demonstrating that many countries are involved in the crusade against the "axis of evil" launched by the administration of President George W. Bush. Far removed from these political considerations, the soldiers perform their duty without displaying their feelings, just like all good soldiers around the world.

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(1) During the preparation phase prior to the entrance of the Polish Army into NATO, the staff in Warsaw realized that very few superior officers would be included in NATO headquarters. The *Bundeswehr* removed a certain number of its own staff officers to support the Poles.

The division is considered to be more of a stabilization force than a combat force. Like the rest of CJTF-7, its main mission is to create and secure a safe and stable environment in central Iraq that is favorable to the operations leading up to the upcoming transfer of authority scheduled for the end of June 2004.

Due to a lack of time and the inability to accurately gauge the state of mind of the concerned population, it is difficult to estimate exactly the impact of the efforts put forth by the division. Propaganda also distorts the capacity to objectively judge and observe. During our visit, we were told repeatedly that the MND (CS) sector was extremely quiet. However, during the week of our visit to the MND (CS) units, we learned that in the days prior and following our visit, three attacks took place (RPG attack against Polish soldiers in Hillah, two mortar attacks in Najaf, and an ambush against a convoy). The sophisticated terror attack in Karbala on 27 December 2003, which resulted in the deaths of five Bulgarian servicemen and two Thais, demonstrates that no contingent is shielded from danger, even in Shi'ite regions.

An Uncertain Future

Insuring security and restoring the stability in the five provinces of Karbala, Babil, Najaf, Al-Qadisiyah, and Wasit is the main mission entrusted to the 9236 men and women of the MND (CS). The territory or Area of Responsibility (AOR) of the division covers 64,000 square kilometers in the middle of Iraq. This vast region in the heart of historic Mesopotamia is a slice of Iraq 400 km (248 miles) long and 220 km (137 miles) wide, stretching from the Saudi border to that of Iran. Living there are 5.2 million inhabitants, 20% of the population of Iraq, who are mainly Shi'ites (85% Shi'ite to 15% Sunnite). The division's AOR includes the great holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, which are currently the object of large Iranian pilgrimages. At Najaf, Iranian flags are regularly hoisted alongside Iraqi colors, as is the case in all the vast southern Shi'ite area. The frescoes representing Saddam Hussein were replaced by the portraits of Ali and Hussein or of the great Shi'ite ayatollahs Mukatda Al Sadr (murdered by Saddam in 1999), Ayat Allah Al Hakim (killed by a bomb in July of 2003), and Ayat Allay Sytani (died of natural causes). This Shi'ite community, which has suffered persecution from the Baathist Party, is widely cautious.

The units of MND (CS) are perceived is this region as a form of temporary authority while awaiting the arrival of real Shi'ite power. Whoever the winner is of the current struggle for influence and control over this important community, whether it be the son of Al Sadr (who is portrayed as the symbol of resistance) or the supporters of Hakim, the cultural difference is such that the future of a truly pro-Western Iraq is endangered. In the meantime, the soldiers of the MND (CS) make their presence known and do their job with an enthusiasm that honors them.

Camp Babylon

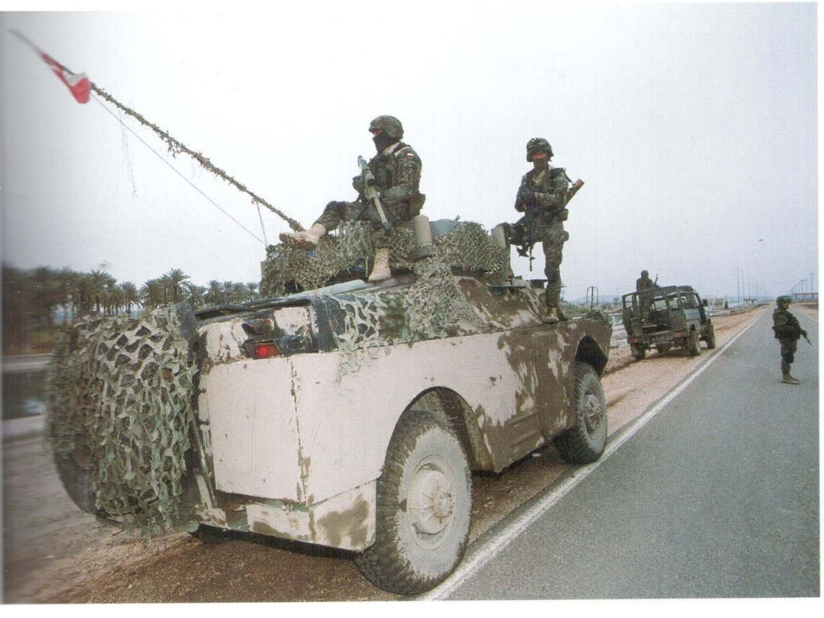
As for every unit in the coalition, entrance to the division headquarters at Camp Babylon is a real obstacle course. The Polish soldiers who repeatedly search the guests do it with seriousness but feign nonchalance. Nevertheless, a PKM machinegun hidden behind a wall of sandbags is permanently aimed at visitors, while a BRDM-2 light armored car lies in wait behind a second obstacle. After having passed multiple checks, visitors find themselves in front of a vast tent city and some luxurious buildings designed to welcome the hosts of Rais, whose palace occupies a hill dominating the ancient city of Babylon.

HMMWVs, BRDMs and other military vehicles drive past Ihstar's door while servicemen from 20 different nations attend to their affairs around the tents. Although they have no presence in the division, in Camp Babylon the Americans have liaison officers, a medical aviation company, a company of military police, and a signal company. Certain important posts are also reserved for American servicemen, and it is the very efficient Major Namos of the US National Guard who will be our guide in the staff of the MND (CS). A total of 340 servicemen, of which 211 are Poles, work within the headquarters staff of the division. There are also a number of cells directed by officers from NATO nations that are not included in the MND (CS) but who came to Iraq to support the Polish staff. So it is that 11 Americans, 5 Danes, 6 Dutchmen, 5 Norwegians, and 2 British work in the corridors of power in Saddam's palaces for the benefit of the division.

The organization of the MND (CS) is as follows:

- Headquarters at Camp Babylon;
- Polish Brigade (Brigade Combat Team 1 [BCT-1]) based at Karbala and composed of troops from Poland, Bulgaria and the Baltic states. Polish command battalion, three infantry battalions (one Polish, one Bulgarian and one mixed [Polish-Lithuanian-Latvian]), a Polish engineer company, and a Polish medical company;
- Ukrainian Brigade (Brigade Combat Team 2 [BCT-2]) based at Al Kut. It includes a Ukrainian headquarters company, two Ukrainian battalions of motorized infantry, a Ukrainian logistic battalion, and an engineer platoon specialized in mine clearance (from Kazakhstan).
- Spanish Brigade (Brigade Combat Team 3 [BCT-3]) based at Ad Diwaniyah. Its troops are distributed among a Spanish command company, a battalion of motorized infantry from Spain, a Spanish logistic battalion, a paratrooper/special forces battalion from El Salvador, a paratrooper/special forces battalion from Honduras, an infantry battalion from the Dominican Republic, and a special forces company from Nicaragua.
- The support and protection units for the headquarters are based at Al Hillah, close to Camp Babylon, and include: a Polish special forces company; a Polish logistic battalion; a Polish command and support company; a Polish light aviation detachment; a Polish military police company; a Thai engineer/construction battalion; a Hungarian transport battalion; a Mongolian protection company; a Slovakian engineer/mine clearing company; a Filipino-Polish CIMIC battalion (to handle civilian-military affairs); and a Romanian military intelligence detachment.

"As you can notice from the organization chart of the MND (CS), this division is more of a large support unit than a real combat unit since it contains twice as many engineer companies than a normal division," clarifies Major Nomos. "Furthermore, we have set aside 10 million dollars worth of work on the infrastructure for the benefit of local authorities."



A Polish BRDM-2 Model 97 "Zbik" (Shrew) patrols the outskirts of Camp Babylon. Note the heavy coat of mud. The attachment of camouflage netting, which is normally not applied during peacekeeping missions, indicates that the mission may be changing to a defensive one.

Reinforcements for Iraq

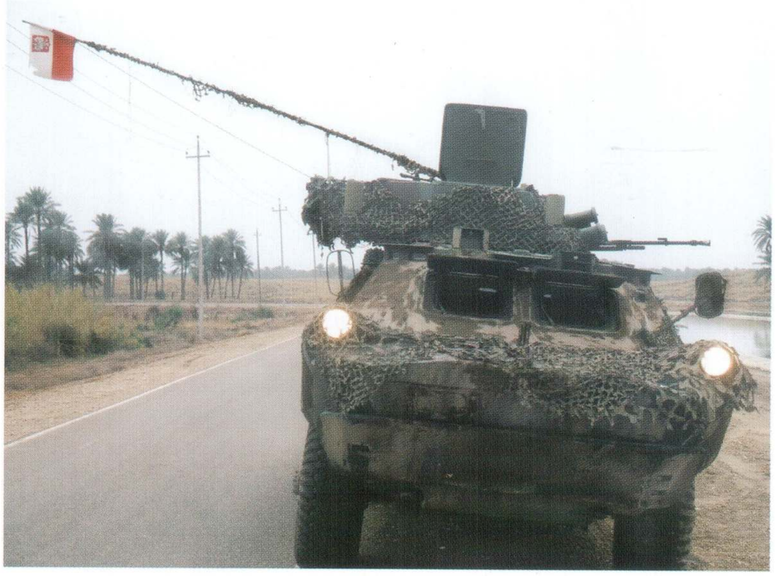
Despite the efforts made on behalf of the local population, as well as the official discourse, the MND (CS) remains for many of the Iraqi people a foreign force of occupation and, as such, it multiplies the number of operations. In three months, 1150 patrols and 170 convoy escort missions have been performed. At the beginning of December, the Hungarian transport company, which is equipped with 200 trucks and 12 BTR-80s, celebrated its 1000th mission.

Even though the division's AOR does not have the bad reputation of the Sunni Triangle, incidents are nevertheless numerous. On 28 October 2003, seven Ukrainian soldiers were wounded in an ambush, and on 6 November, the Polish Major Hieronim Kupcyk from Brigade Combat Team 1 was killed. Officially, he was the first Polish soldier killed in an operation since World War Two.

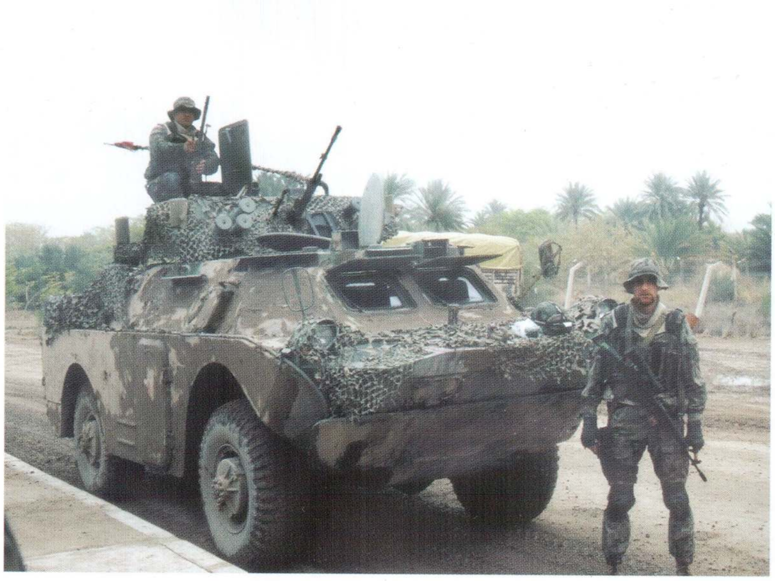
Lack of security is going to cause Warsaw to strengthen its contingent in Iraq. The second contingent, which was scheduled to relieve the Polish troops of the MND (CS) in January/February 2004, will include more special forces and a reconnaissance unit. A total of 154 million supplementary Zloty (39.5 million dollars) will be spent on the division.

The Ministry of Defense intends to deploy four Mi-24 Hind attack helicopters to support the six Sokol and four Mi-8s in the helicopter detachment. Longer range weapons and supplemental BRDM-2 "Zbik" should also be arriving in the zone.

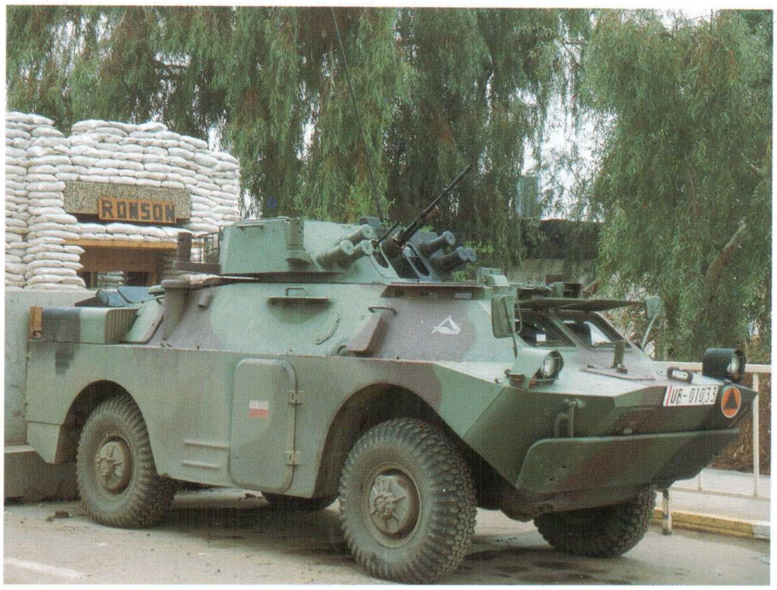
On the ground we meet up with a patrol led by Lieutenant Smialkowski. The reputation of the Polish soldier is well established. These men of the 10th Mechanized Battalion of the 10th Cavalry Brigade are young but hardy, fit for the task facing them and certainly very brave, with a certain Slavic looseness about them. The patrol, which consists of one of the new Honker 2000 "Skorpion" vehicles and a BRDM-2 Type 97 "Zbik", is tasked with the surveillance of the areas surrounding Camp Babylon. (The large palm tree plantations are an ideal location for a carrying out a mortar attack.)



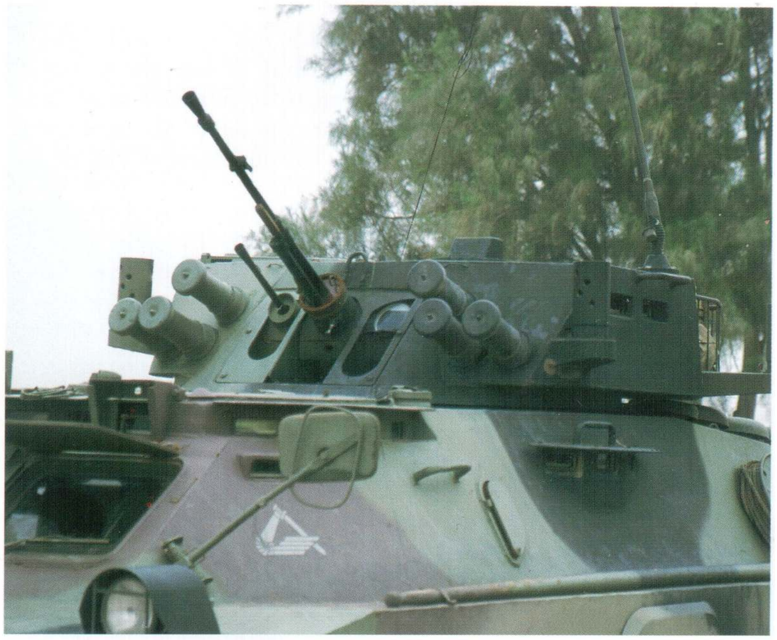
Front view of a patrolling BRDM-2 Model 97 "Zbik". Note the Polish flag flying from the top of the antenna.



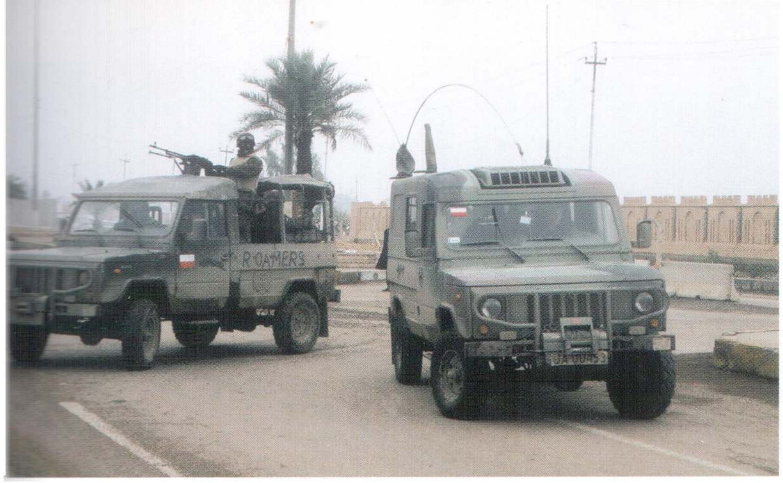
The Polish troops operating this BRDM-2 Model 97 "Zbik" look every bit as rugged as the vehicle that transports them.



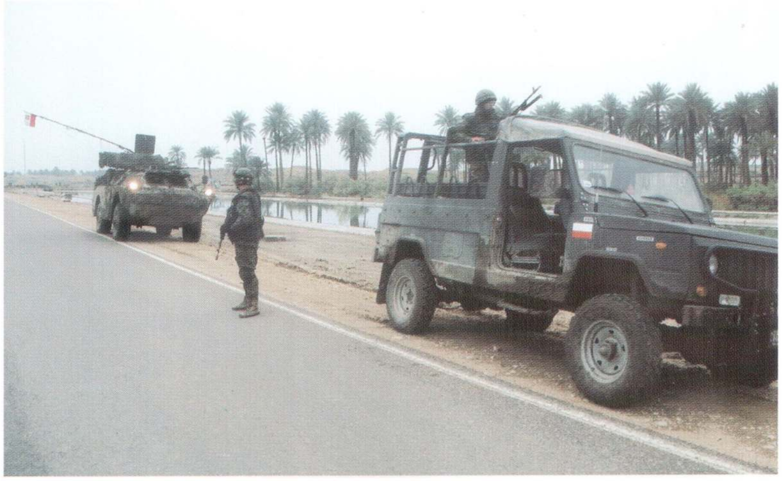
A BRDM-2 serves as "guardian of the gate" at one of the entrances to Camp Babylon. The BRDM-2 Model 97 "Zbik" is a modernized version of the BRDM-2. The first ones were on trial in Bosnia with the Polish Army. The Models 96 and 97 were fitted with a laser warning system and a GPS (Global Positioning System), and improvements were made to observation equipment. On a future version Model 98, a STN ATLAS sensor mast similar to those mounted on the German Fennek will be installed.



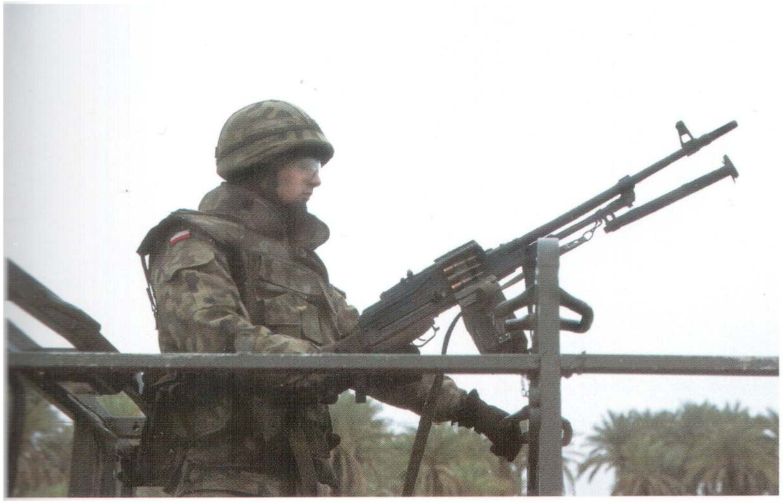
The main change concerned the armament. The old 14.5mm KPV-T heavy machine gun was replaced with the 12.7mm NSTV machine gun that is also used on the T-72M tank, with the 7.62mm PKT machine being retained. The one-person turret was modified to include extensions outward on either side. A stowage basket has been added on at the rear of the turret.



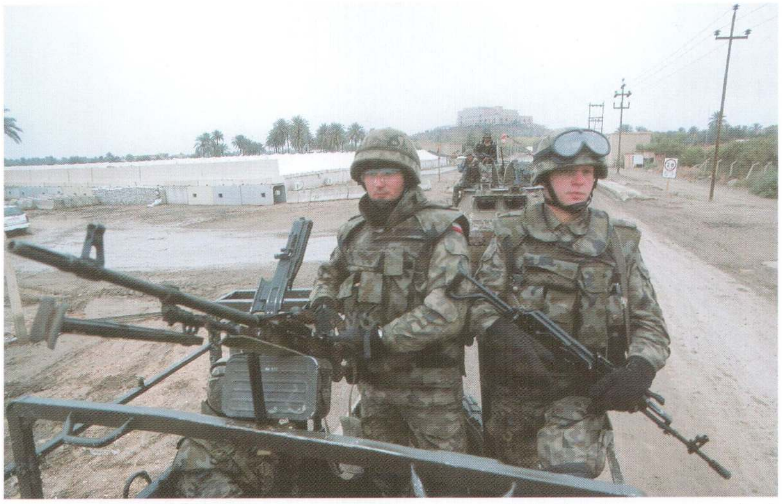
This view of a pair of Honker 2000 "Skorpion" provides a good study of the size and design of the new 4x4 transport vehicle.



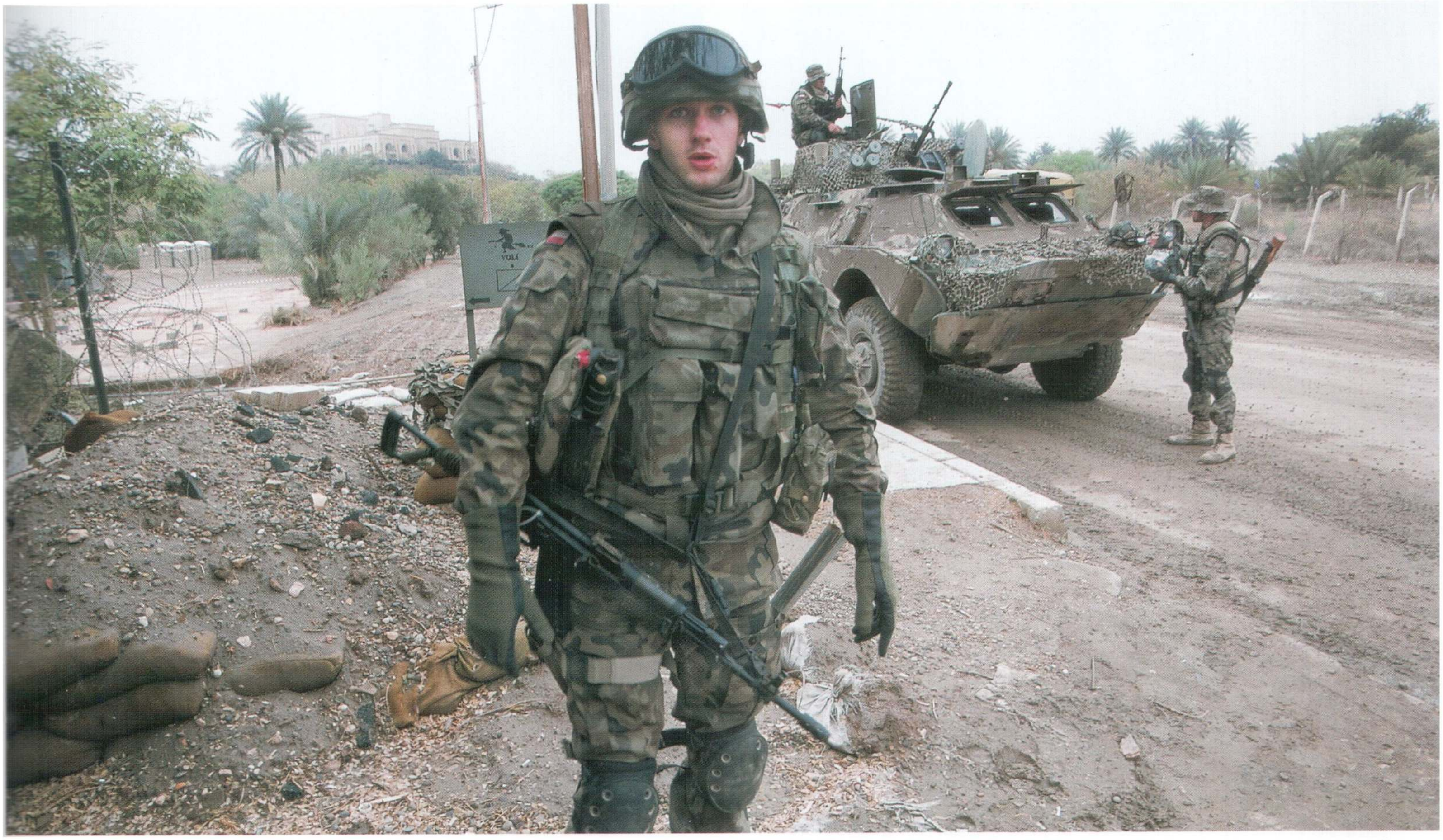
The 4x4 Honker 2000 "Skorpion" can carry up to ten fully equipped soldiers.



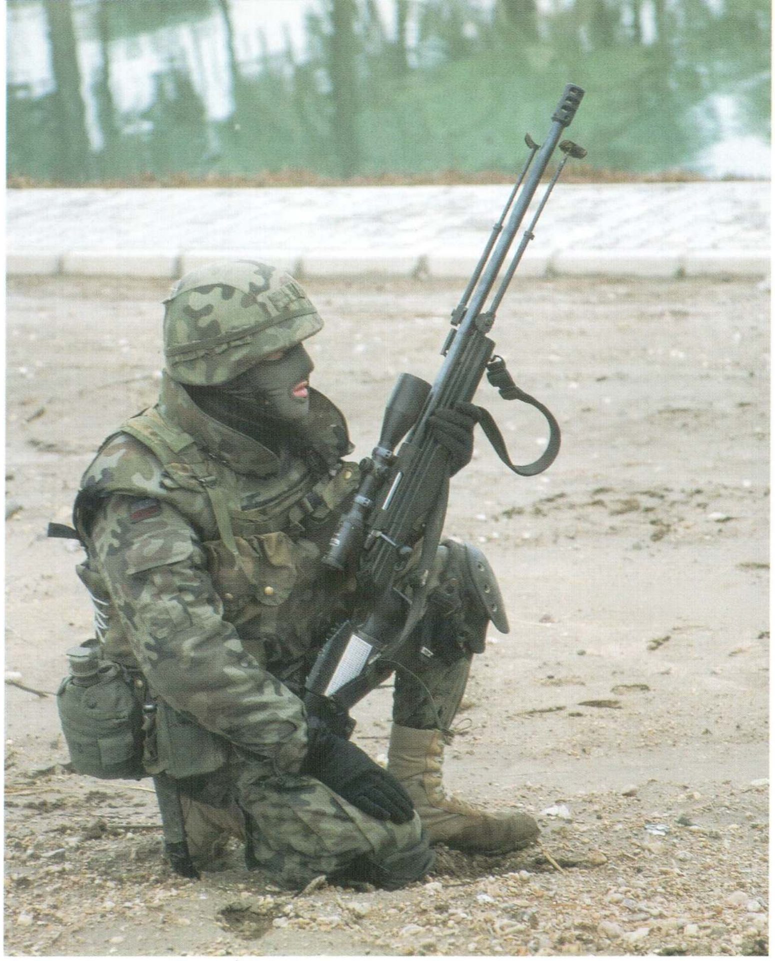
A machine gunner mans his weapon atop a Honker 2000 "Skorpion." He is armed with a KM-PK, the Polish version of the Soviet-made PKM.



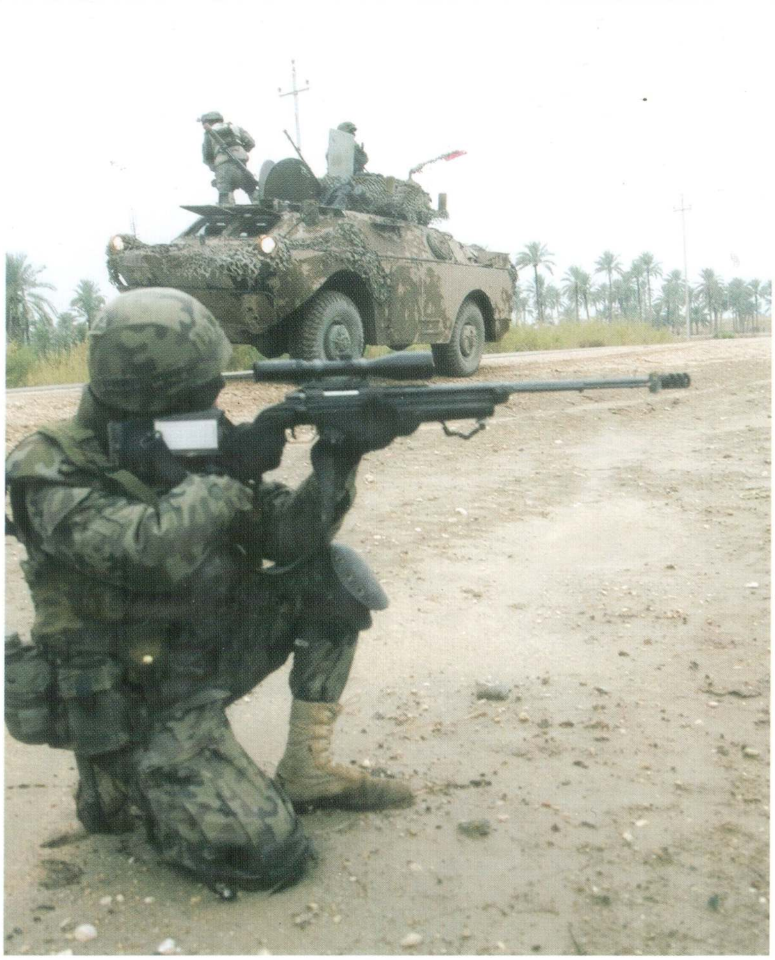
A Honker 2000 "Skorpion" leaves Camp Babylon to go on patrol. The KM-PK machine gun can be used mounted on the vehicle or by disembarked troops. One of Saddam Hussein's palaces can be seen in the background.



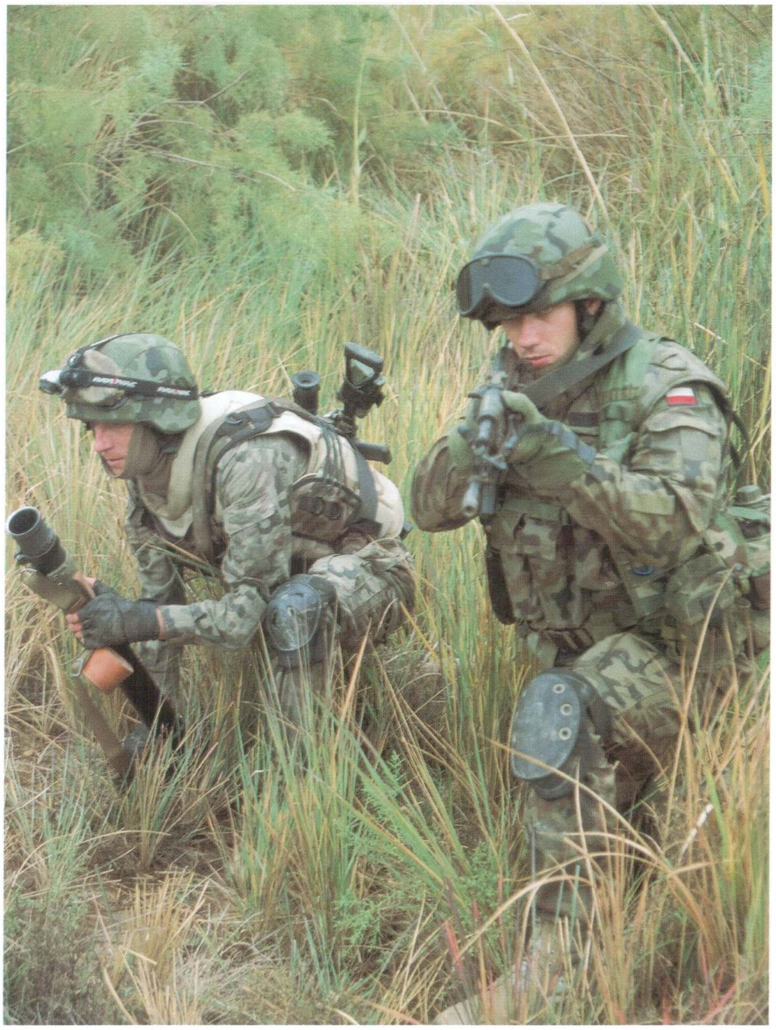
Supported by a BRDM-2 Model 97 "Zbik," a patrol of Polish soldiers from the 10th Mechanized Battalion conducts a patrol in the Camp Babylon area.



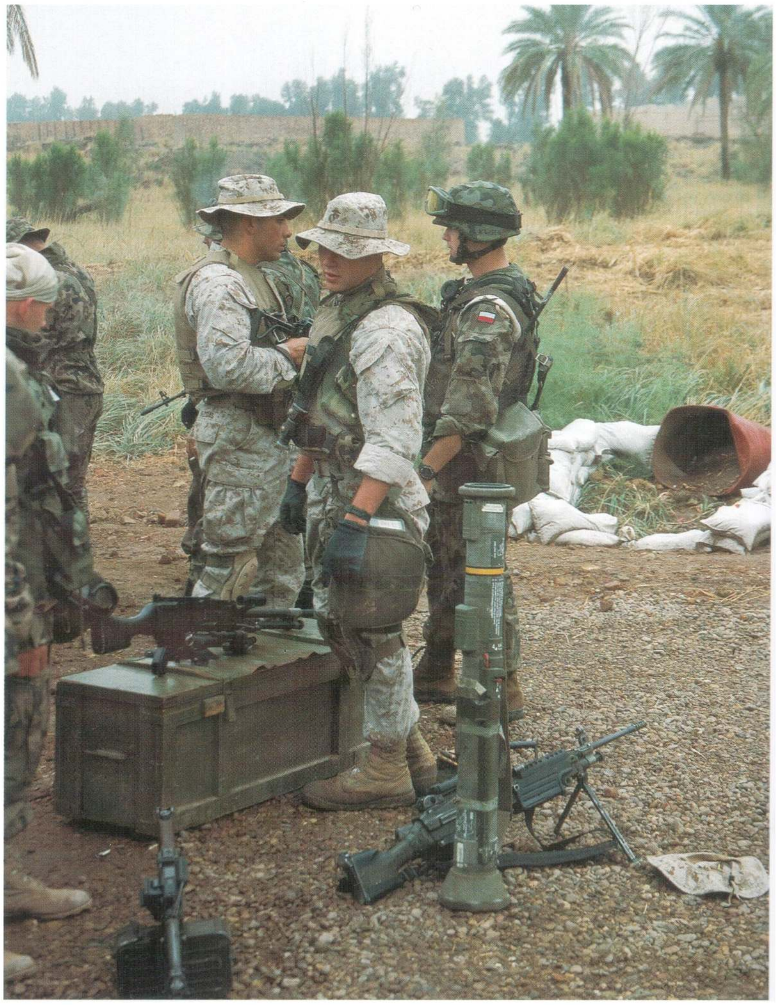
The rifle used in the Polish sniper squad is the Finnish-made Sako TRG-22, which is one of the best sniper rifles in the world.



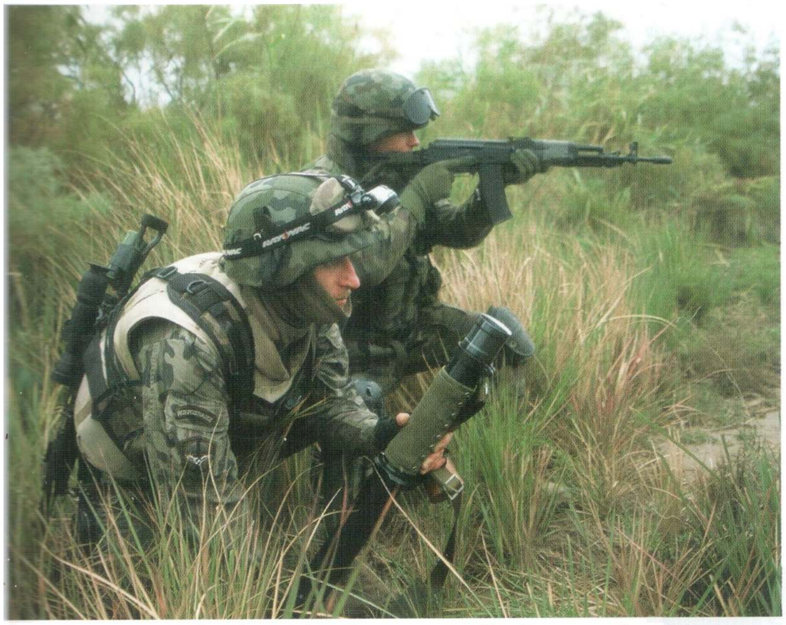
The Sako TRG-22 sniper rifle has a 10-round magazine for 7.62mm x 51 NATO ammunition. The rifle weighs 5.3km (11.7 lb.) without a sights and has a length of 120cm (barrel is 60cm) (47.3 in (barrel is 24 in)).



A 60mm commando mortar is used to support a Polish squad while on patrol.

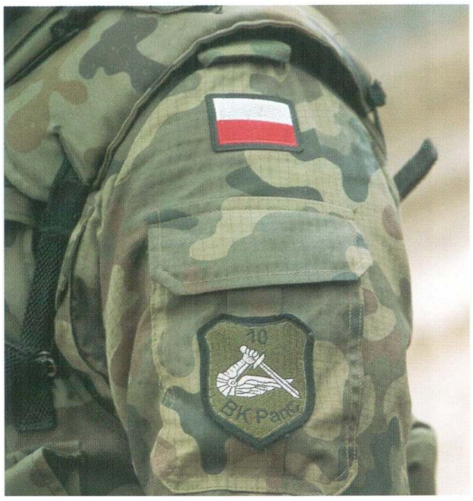


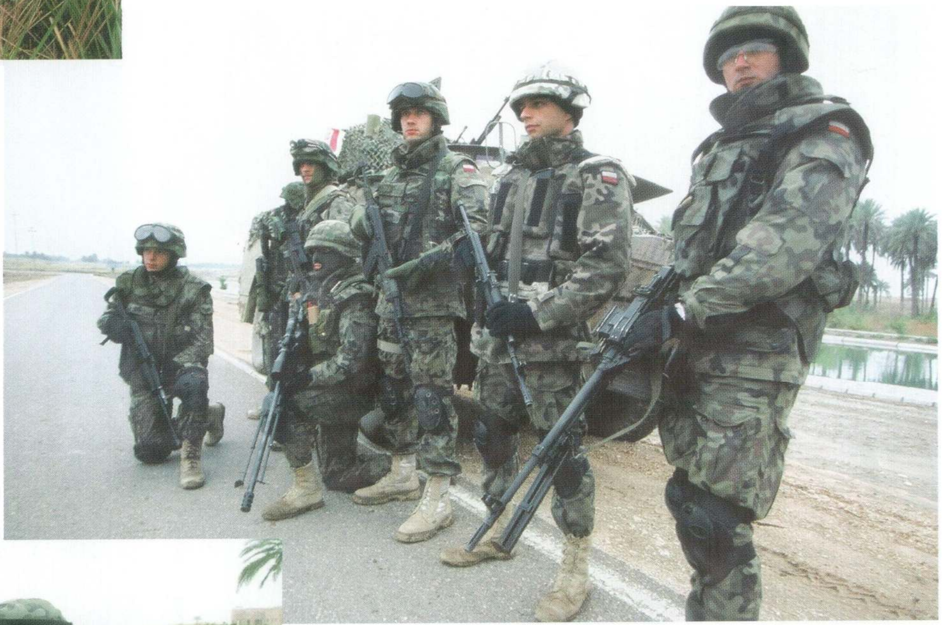
Some USMC ANGLICO troops of the 4th Marine Division (Reserve) from New Orleans participate in a weapons presentation along with soldiers from the Polish air cavalry.



The 60mm light mortar is an excellent support weapon because it provides a certain firepower to combat groups involved in anti-guerilla operations. Its main problem is the difficulty of transporting an adequate supply of ammunition when the patrol is on foot.

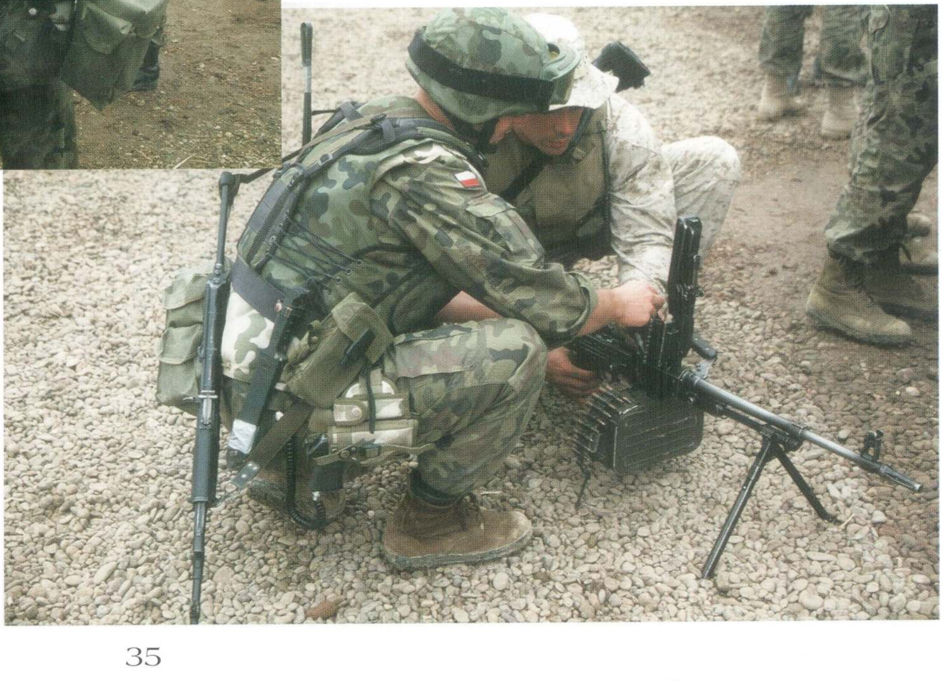
Shoulder patches of the Polish 10th Mechanized Battalion, which, along with the 10th and 25th Cavalry Brigade, provides the Polish combat troops in Iraq.





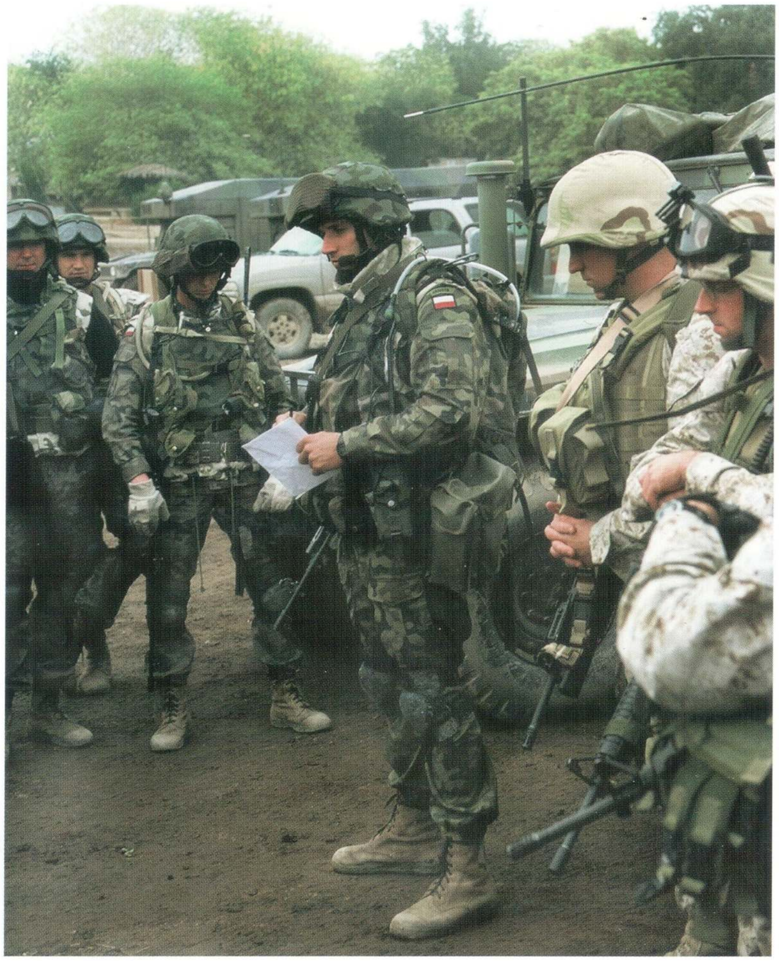
This view of a Polish combat group from the 10th Cavalry Brigade shows off a different variety of weapons such as the KM-PK machine gun and the Beryl assault rifle, some of which are fitted with the Pallad 40mm grenade launcher. About the only weapon not seen here is the rocket launcher, the classic RPG-7, which is made in Poland. There are normally 20 people in a platoon, including four scouts and the crew of two Honker 2000 "Skorpion" vehicles.

A Polish soldier examines one of the US Marine weapons. The Marines showed off their AT-4, M4A1 carbine and M240 light machine gun to the Polish troops.

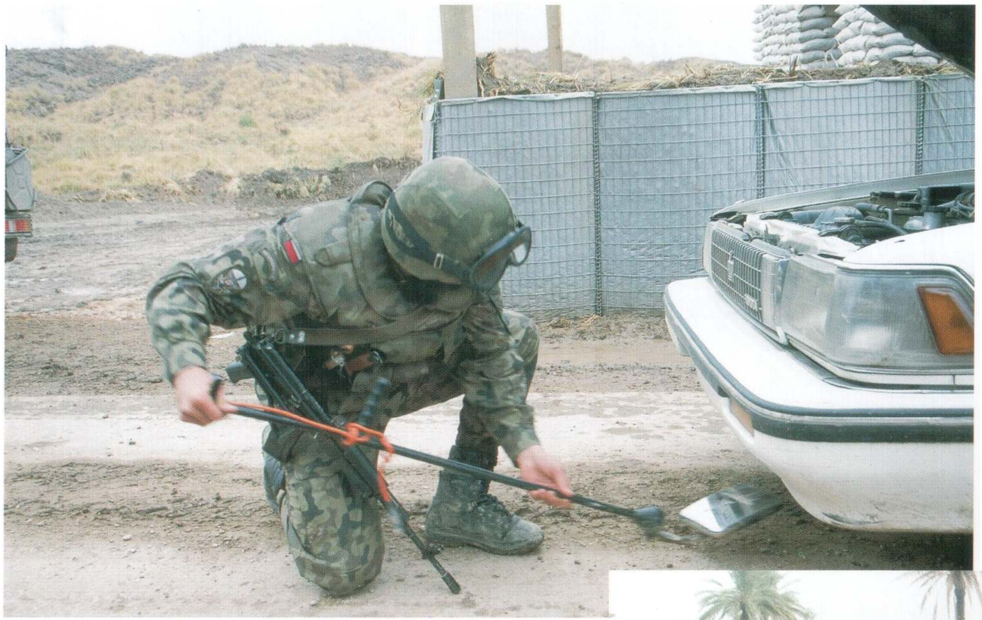


The Polish troops reciprocated in the weapon exchange by showing to the Marines their Beryl assault rifles and KM-PK machine gun.

Following the weapons exchange, the USMC ANGLICO officer receives a briefing from a Polish officer to plan an airmobile operation. The Marines are wearing the new digital desert camouflage pattern.

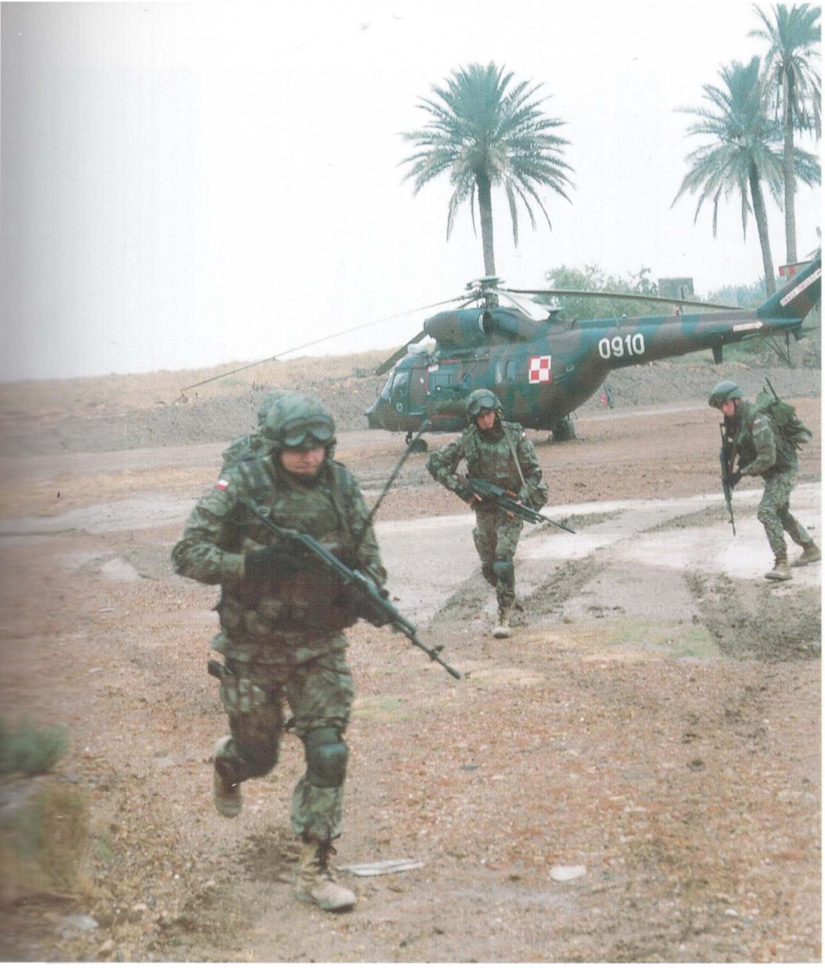


The ANGLICO is a small team of elite troops tasked with planning and organizing fire support from both air and naval gun fire. The USMC AV-8B Harrier or F/A-18 Hornet aircraft based in Kuwait or Qatar could be quickly called in if something were to happen.



One of the main threats faced by the coalition forces in Iraq is the danger of a "suicide car" filled with explosives. Every car that enters Camp Babylon is searched at the first security ring of the defense perimeter. Of course the Polish soldier performing the search of vehicles is covered by another soldier armed with a Beryl assault rifle. A solider manning the machine gun of a BRDM-2 "Zbik" closely observes the operation.

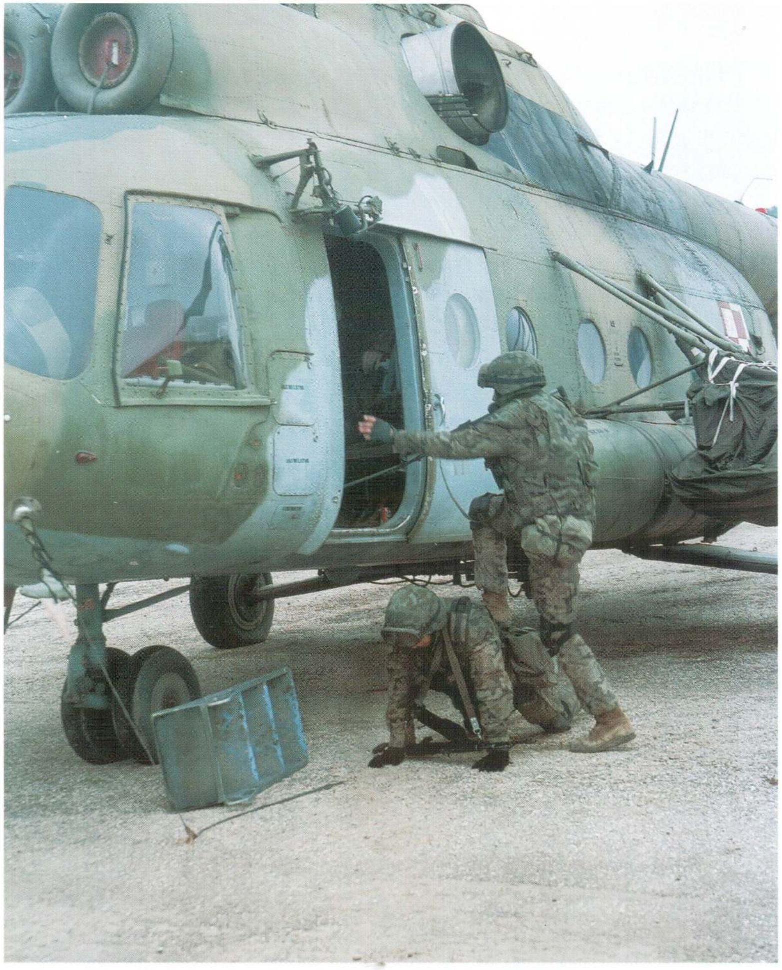
Polish air cavalry troops await the order to embark on a helicopter. The Polish "Air Cav" company consists of three platoons, each containing three squads of 10 soldiers with one commander, one PKM machine gun, one sniper, one RPG-7, one driver, and five soldiers armed with Beryl assault rifles and one Pallad 40mm grenade launcher.



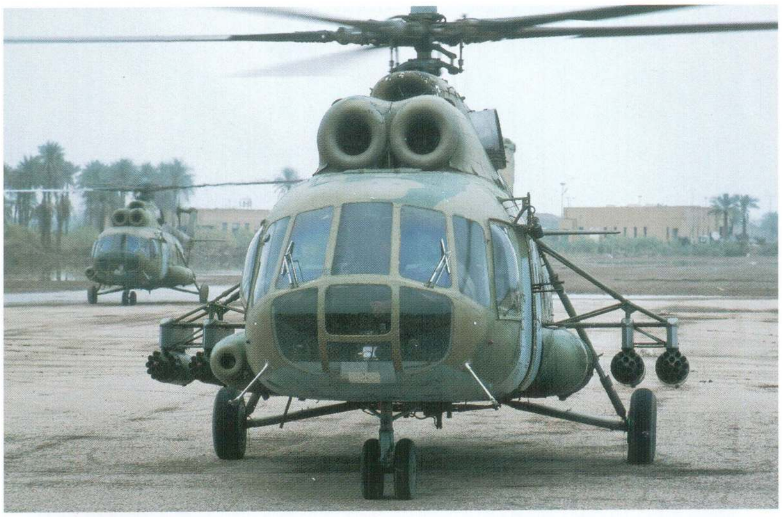
Polish troops belonging to the 10th Cavalry Brigade practice disembarking a Sokol W-3W "Falcon" from 66th Transport Helicopter Regiment at Camp Babylon. As part of the Polish contingent's second rotation, they will receive the reinforcement of four Mi-24 "Hind" helicopters. The new deployment proves that the general situation is not as quiet as is presented by the official PIO in the MND (CS) area of responsibility.

The helicopter detachment of the MND (CS) consists of five Mi-8 "Hip" and five Sokol W-3W "Falcon" helicopters. They are normally based in Al Kut with the BCT-2 from Ukraine so they can be used to patrol near the Iranian border, but here they are taking part in an exercise at Camp Babylon.

The Polish helicopters conduct patrols, quick reaction deployment and MEDEVAC. It was during this last type of mission that Polish helicopters were caught up in the attack on BCT-1 in Karbala, where five Bulgarian and two Thai soldiers were killed and 30 coalition soldiers wounded.



Polish soldiers practice the proper technique for embarking onto a helicopter. Note how one soldier uses the back of the other as a step.



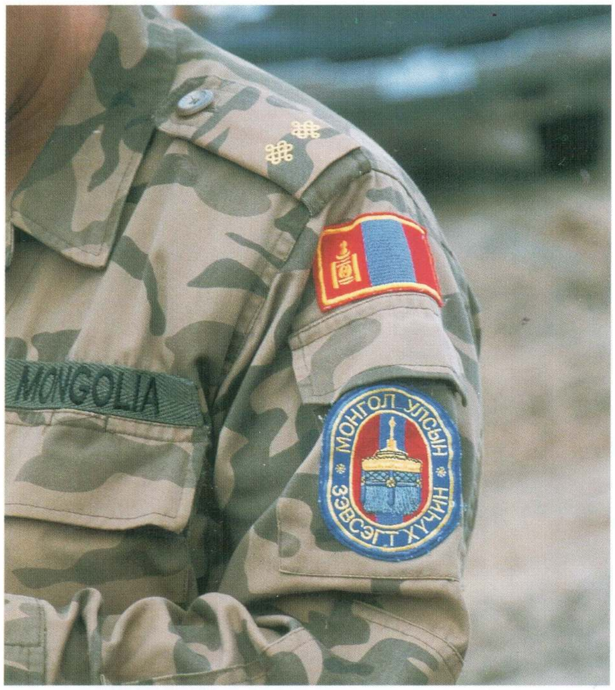
Some of the helicopters used by the MND (CS) are armed with rocket pods, such as seen here on this Mi-8 from Squadron 37.

The Return of the Sons of the Great Khan

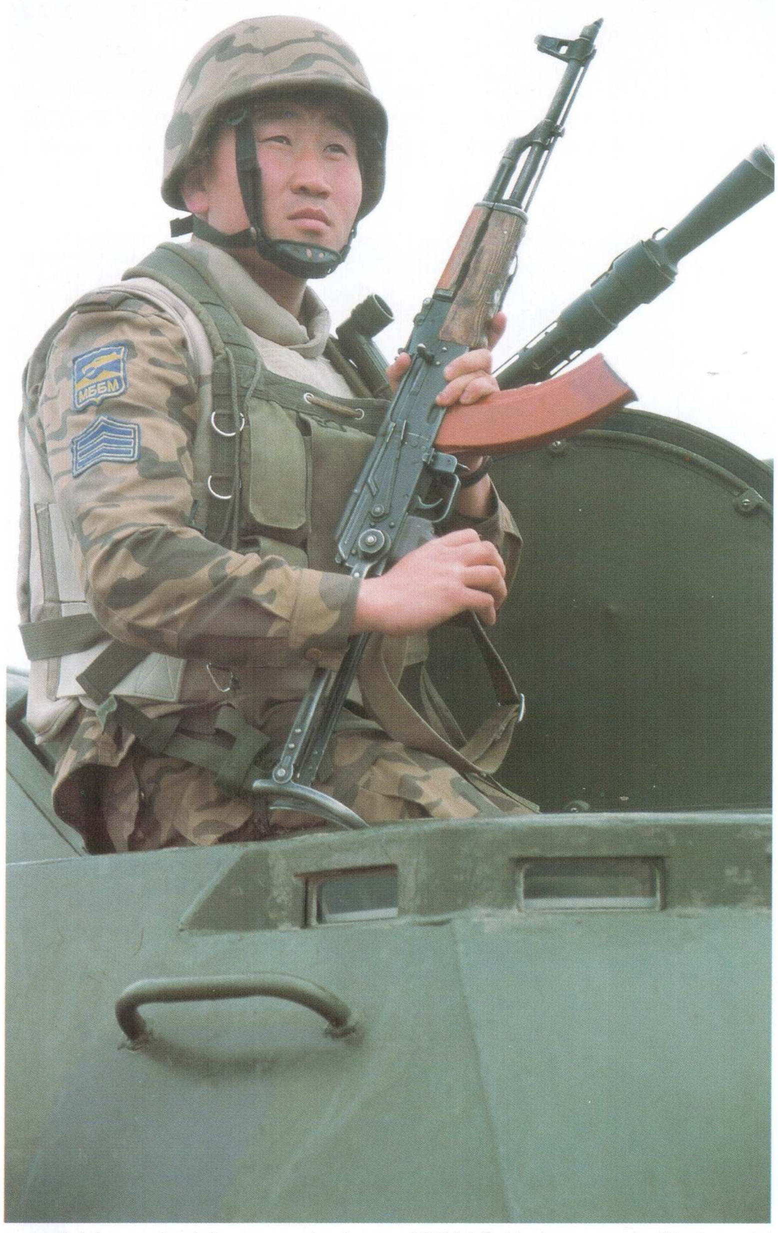
At the entrance to Al Hillah is a vast fortified camp that shelters a large portion of the support units of the MND (CS). Near the gate a pleasant Polish soldier shows us a vast, grazing scar on a concrete block. "RPG-7," he says simply. On the right side of the complex a strange flag flies over a building that is well protected by sandbags. The soldiers lifting weights at the entrance to the building have flat faces and slanted eyes. There are generally larger than most Asians. Their leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Bayarmagnai, says to us with a big smile, "Welcome to the Mongol battalion. We were here once before a long time ago."

In the 13th century, the troops of Kublai Khan razed Baghdad. Arab chroniclers of the time spoke of a massacre of some 800,000 victims. The Mongolian soldiers are not too concerned about being associated with their terrible ancestors because they are part of the first peacekeeping mission carried out by the army of Ulang-Bator.

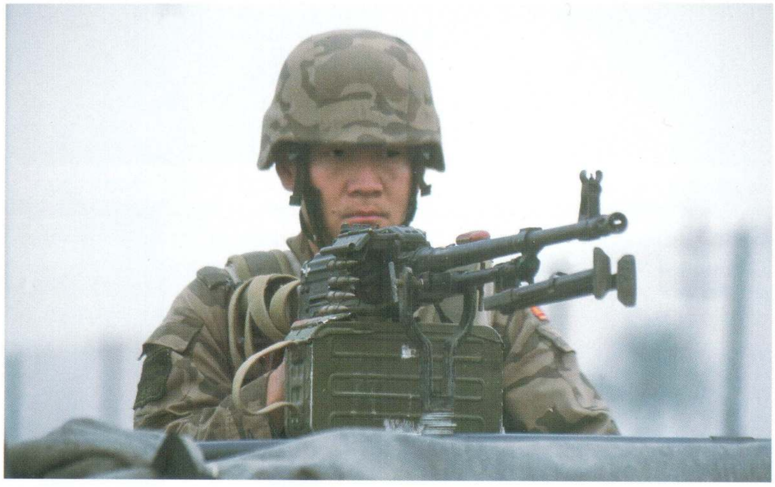
Beneath a portrait of Genghis Khan that decorates the command post, the officer describes to us the composition of the Mongolian contingent, which consists of a rifle company and platoon of engineers. The mission of the Mongolian soldiers consists of the protection of the CP. To accomplish this they have at their disposal eight BRDM-2s and Russian UAZ jeeps. If the Mongolian soldiers sound solid and competent when described by the Polish officers, their individual armament is a reminder of the Red Army of the 1970s. They are armed with AK-47 assault rifles, RPK light machine guns, PKM medium machine guns, Dragunov sniper rifles, and, of course, the traditional 14.5mm KPV heavy machine gun on the turret of the BRDM-2.



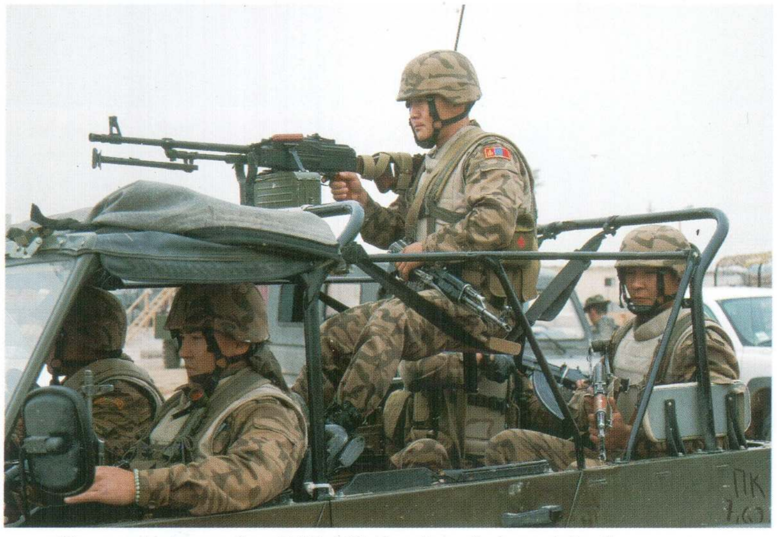
The shoulder insignia of the Mongolian contingent consists of their national flag and the badge of the Mongolian Army.



A Mongol soldier mounted on a BRDM-2. He is armed with the old style AK-47 Kalashnikov in 7.62x39, which features a folding butt. His unit patch features a wolf's head.

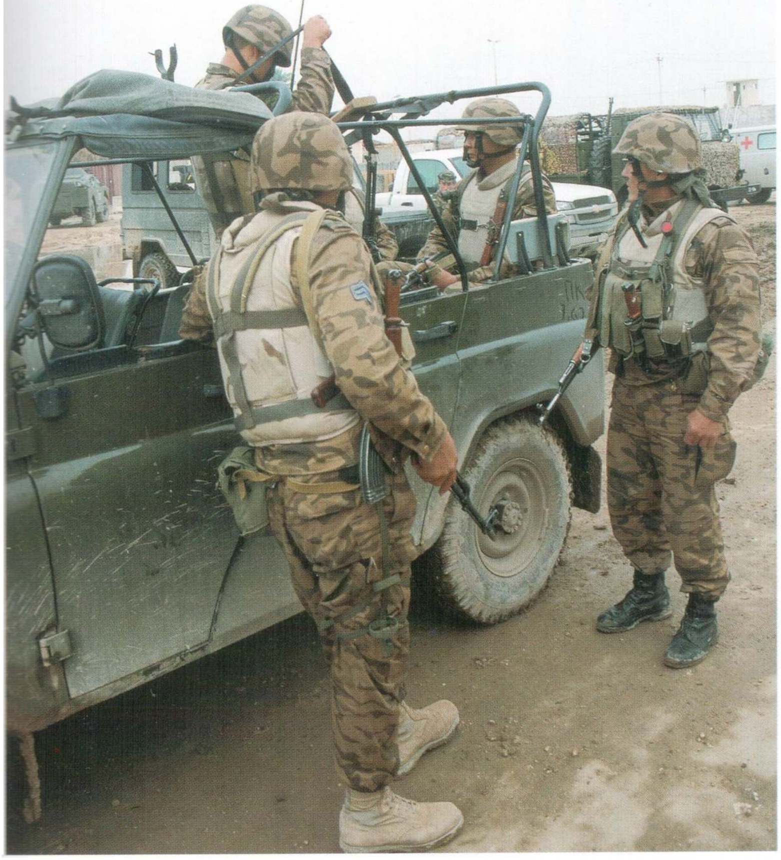


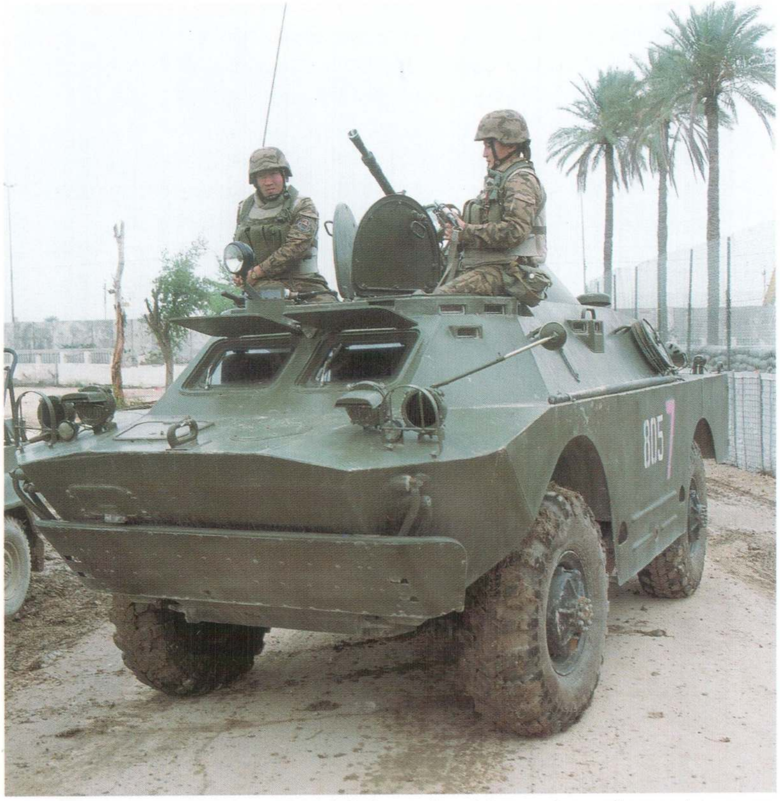
This Mongol soldier mans a PKM machine gun, an old Russian weapon that is still reliable. This PKM is equipped with a cartridge belt box that can feed 250 rounds to the MG. The weapon's rate of fire is 690/720 rounds per minute and it has a weight of 9kg (20 lb.) without a tripod. Along with the FN MAG, the PKM is probably one of the most useful medium machine guns in the world. Note the subdued version of the unit badge on the soldier's sleeve.



General view of a UAZ-469 Russian 4x4 and its five-man crew. Each Mongolian soldier is armed with an AK-47. The machine gunner is ready to open fire with his PKM in case of ambush.

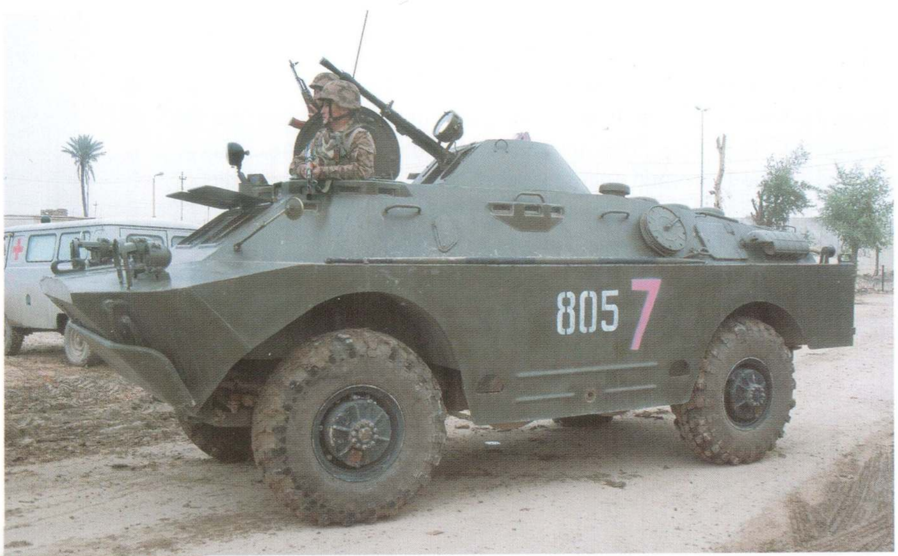
The UAZ-469 and its crew are ready to go out on patrol. Note that the brown camouflage of the Mongolian soldier appears to be more effective in the Mesopotamian mud than the sand-colored camouflage worn by a large number of coalition contingents. The "Fritz"-type helmet is of American origin, as are some of the light flack vests.

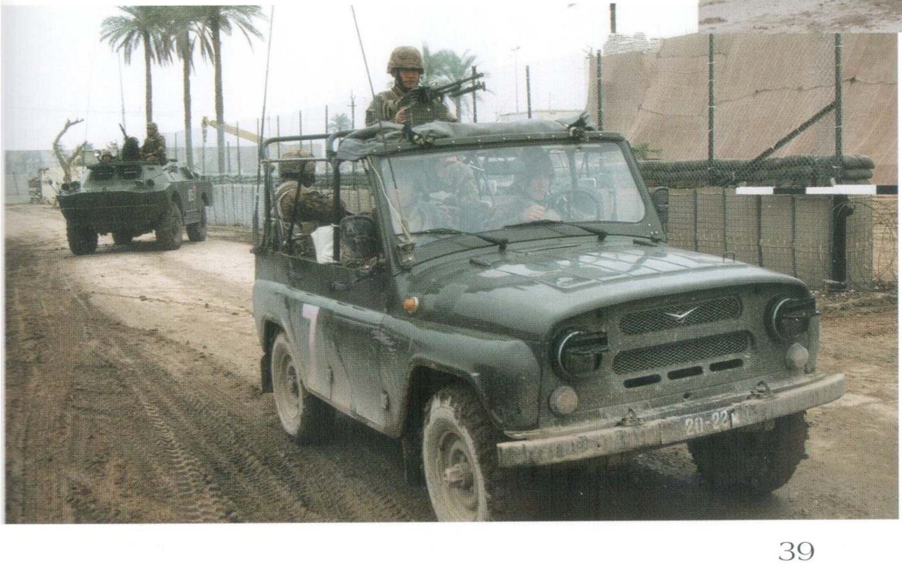




A nice view of a BRDM-2 from the Mongol contingent is seen prior to heading out on patrol.

The silhouette and appearance of the BRDM-2 has not changed since its introduction into the Red Army in the mid-1960s. Fifty-five countries around the world use the BRDM-2, which is the most widely seen reconnaissance vehicle. Note the KPV 14.5mm machine gun.





The UAZ-469 4x4 in the foreground and the BRDM-2 in the background represent the two types of vehicles that the Mongolian contingent is using in Iraq. Visible in the photo is part of the logistic base of MND (CS) in Al Hillah. Note the heavy protection of the building, which illustrates the "bunkerization" of the coalition troops.

Caballeros Legionaires in Ad Diwaniyah

At the end of Brigade Combat Team 3, the Spaniards prefer the name Brigade "Plus Ultra", taken from the old motto of Christopher Columbus appearing on the red and yellow colors of their national flag. At the staff HQ of the Brigade, situated in Ad Diwaniyah, emotion is at its height. Two days earlier, seven Spanish intelligence agents were murdered in the road between Al Hillah and Baghdad. These men were not really part of the Spanish contingent, but here everyone feels concern. As a fervent supporter of US President George Bush's policy, Spanish President Aznar had committed Spain in Iraq against the will of his people.

Not content with taking a back seat, the *Ejercito* (Spanish Army) got involved by sending a large brigade that also grouped together various Spanish-speaking contingents from Central America. The zone of responsibility of the Brigade "Ultra Plus" includes the two southern provinces of the territory of the MND (CS), part of which is the holy city of Najaf and the important crossroad of Ad Diwaniyah. A total of 1200 Spanish soldiers serve in this brigade, which has not suffered any losses at the time of writing.

Wearing the traditional forage cap of the Legion, Captain Juan Carlos Moreno Arenas declared to us: "The sector is rather quiet. Our camp at Ad Diwaniyah has endured some mortar attacks, but the bombs always fell on the perimeter of the nearby American military police company. Our single casualty to date is simply one soldier being bitten by a scorpion. Nevertheless, we remain alert. At any moment a truck rigged with explosives could appear."

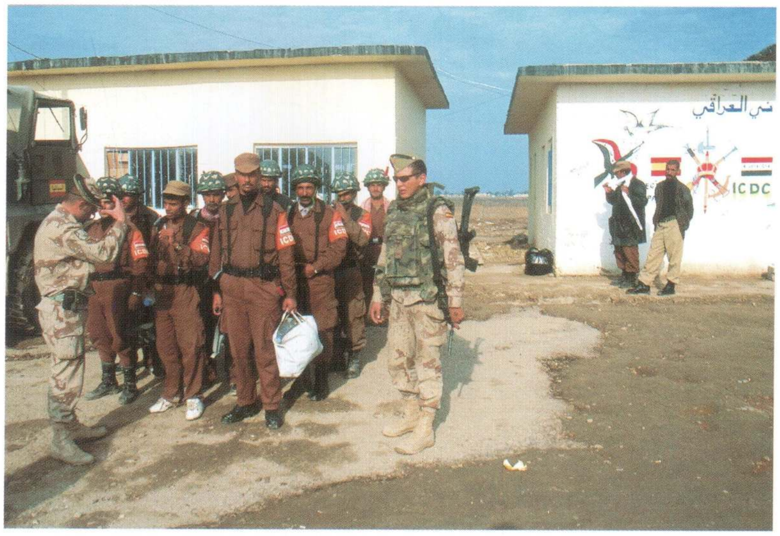
The *Brigada de Infanteria Ligera Aerotransportable* (BRILAT) "Galacia VII" is tasked with the command of the Brigade and most of the support and logistic units. The Spanish Airmobile Brigade of Corogna in the north of Spain provides a staff company, a transmission company, an engineer company, an NBC platoon, a "psyops" platoon, a CIMIC company, a National Support detachment, and the logistic company. They also have a special forces company and a detachment from the FAMET (Army Air Corps) with two Cougar and two Super Puma helicopters.

The combat units consist of 360 Legionaires from the 3rd *Tercio* "Don Juan de Austria," as well as a company of cavalry from the famous "Lusitania" Regiment. This regiment's famous death's head insignia is painted on the front mud guard of their 16 VEC M-1 armored cars.

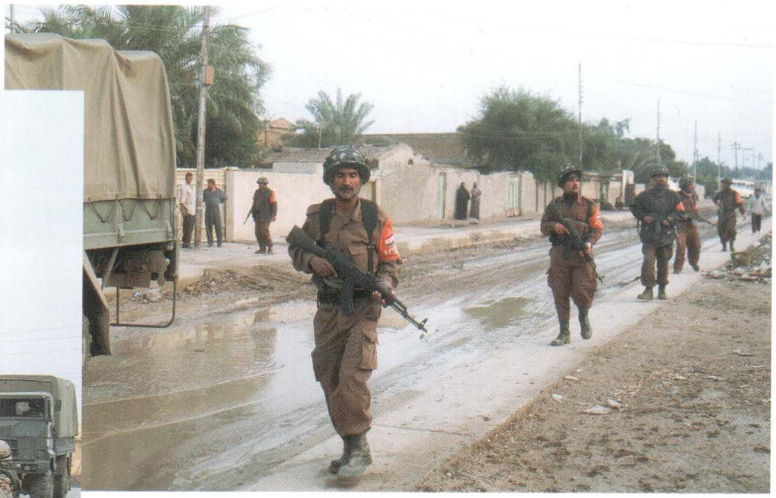
We came across some Legionaires patrolling in one of the suburbs of the city. Some Iraqi soldiers from the Iraq Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) (2) also took part in the patrol. It was the Legionaires themselves who trained this militia. The shabby appearance of the militiamen contrasts with the professional look of the *caballeros legionaires* mounted on their BMR-2 armored cars, which is the Spanish Army's standard armored personnel carrier in Iraq.

The patrol operates amid the total indifference of the local population. Only the little children pay attention to the Spanish soldiers in hopes of maybe scrounging some food.

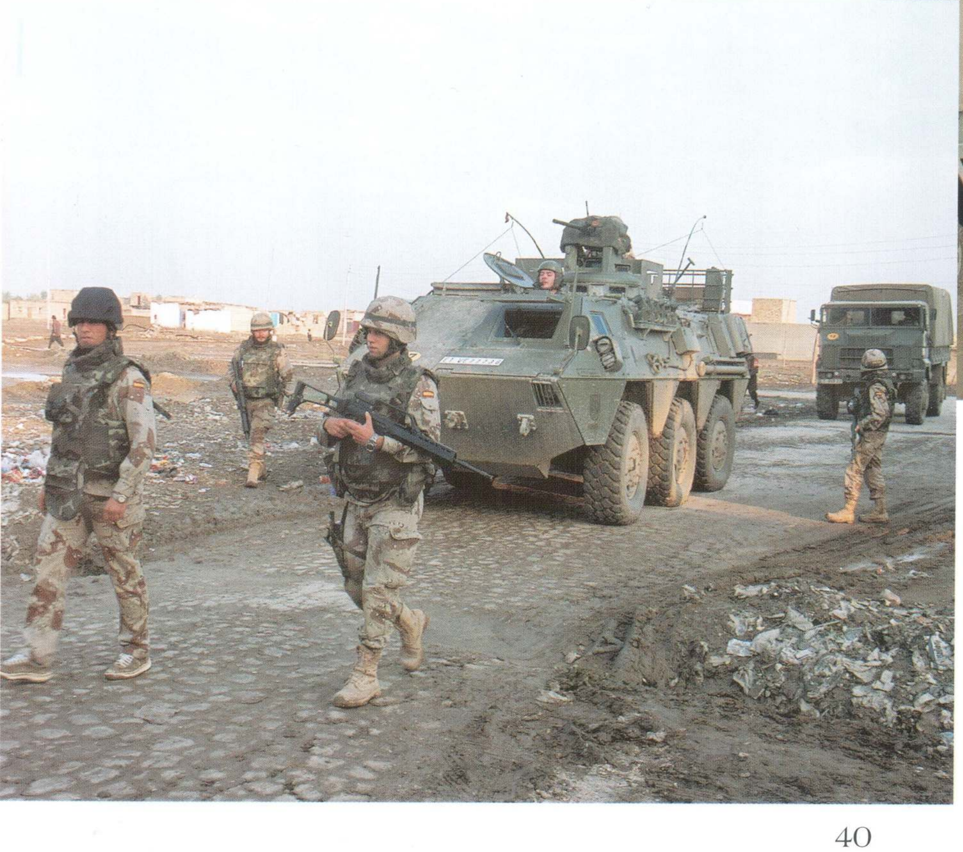
(2) The goal of the ICDC, which was created by the Americans, is to involve the Iraqis in protecting their own security. Nevertheless, in the Sunni Triangle these people are considered collaborators and traitors and must operate with their faces masked. Many Iraqis joined the ICDC to obtain food. In December 2003, 300 members of the 1st Battalion deserted.



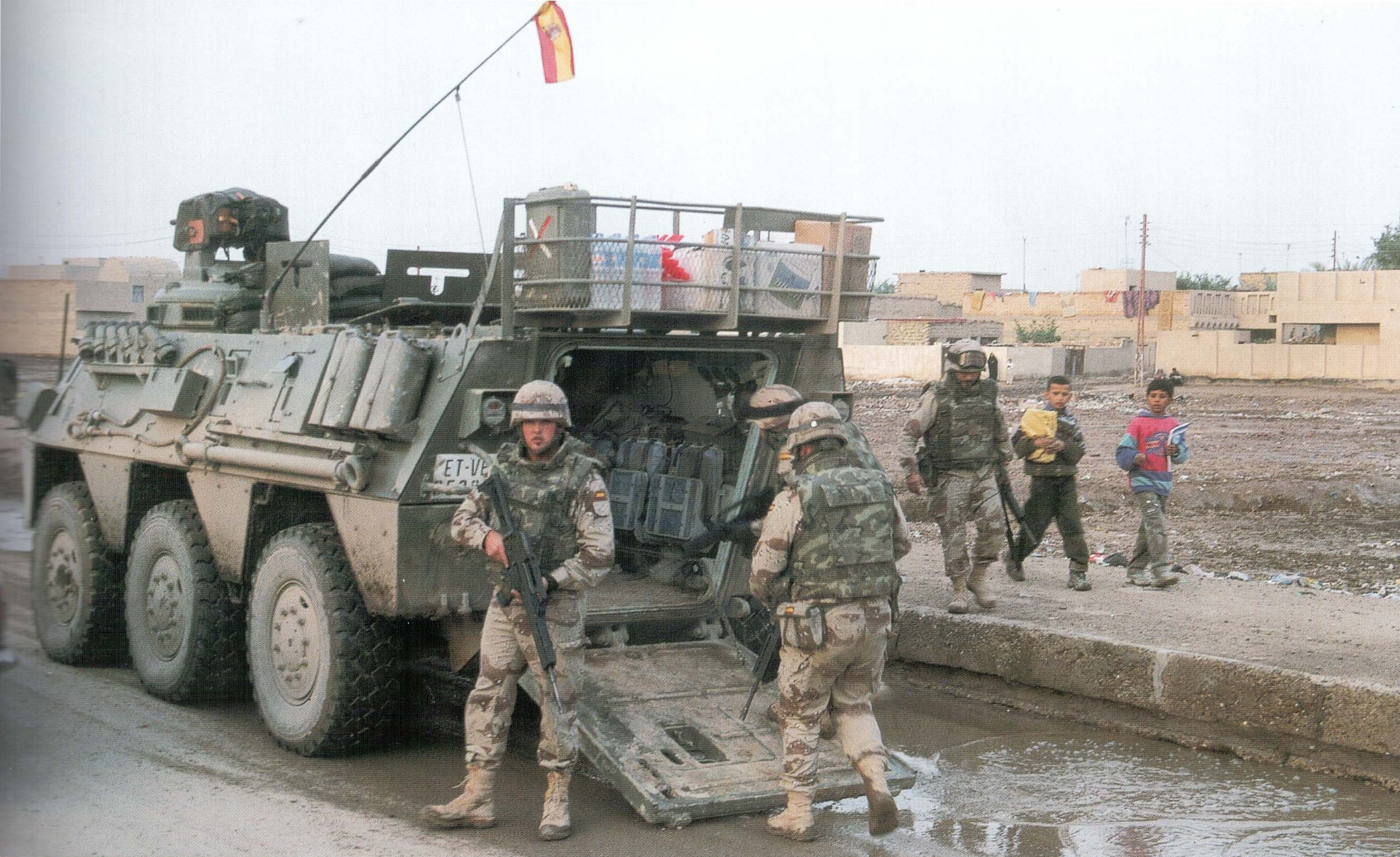
One of the missions of the MND (CS) was to form the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) from former Iraqi soldiers. Here some Spanish Legionaires wearing their traditional forage caps inspect a group of ICDC members who are ready for patrol. Note the contrast in appearance between the Iraqi militiamen and the Legionaires. The wall on the barracks is covered with paintings of the Spanish coat-of-arms and ICDC emblems.



Troops from the ICDC on patrol in Ad Diwaniyah. Spanish trucks transported the Iraqi soldiers. They are armed with the classic Kalashnikov assault rifle. The overall goal of the ICDC is to have Iraqi citizens step by step take over responsibility for the security of Iraq. Some men joined the corps simply to feed their families, and the main motivation of the unit is not that high since many Iraqis view the members of the unit as collaborators.

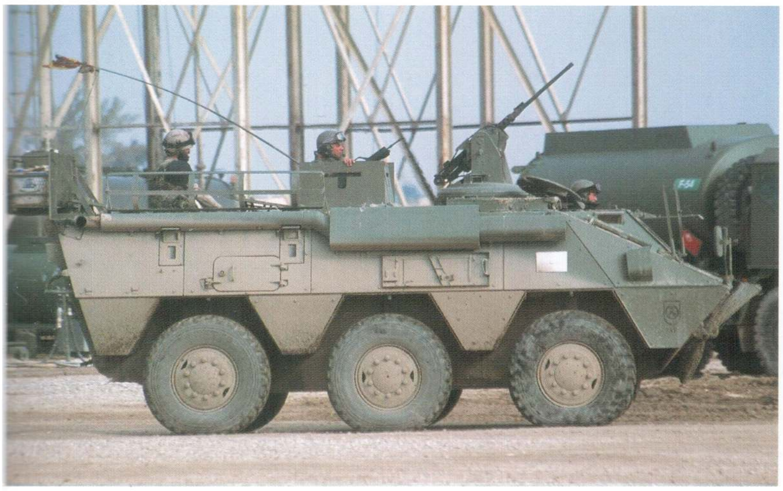


Spanish Legionaires on patrol in the suburb of Ad Diwaniyah. This large communication and administration center is populated with 443,000 inhabitants. Though the city is relatively quiet, like everywhere in Iraq, things can happen very quickly.



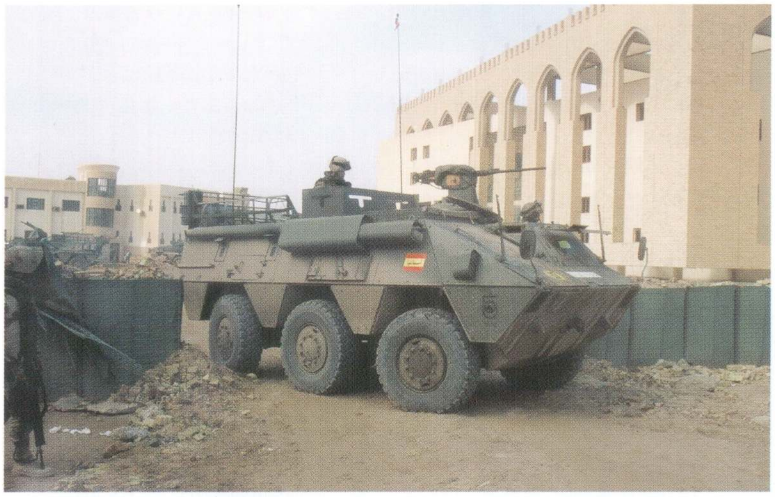
The BMR-2 is the main vehicle employed in the Brigade "Plus Ultra", and it is used chiefly by the Spanish Legion in Iraq. An upgraded version of the BMR-600, the BMR-2 is fitted with a new Scania DS-9 diesel engine, which can develop 310 HP at 2200 RPM. The latest version of the BMR is easily recognizable by the large stowage cage mounted at the rear, which extends over the rear of the hull.

The Spanish Legionaires shown here were transported in the classic Spanish wheeled APC, the BMR-2. The VII Bandera (Legion battalion) in Spain has three motorized companies, and each company has 14 BMR-2s. The man wearing the dark blue helmet is not a Spanish soldier but a civilian translator.

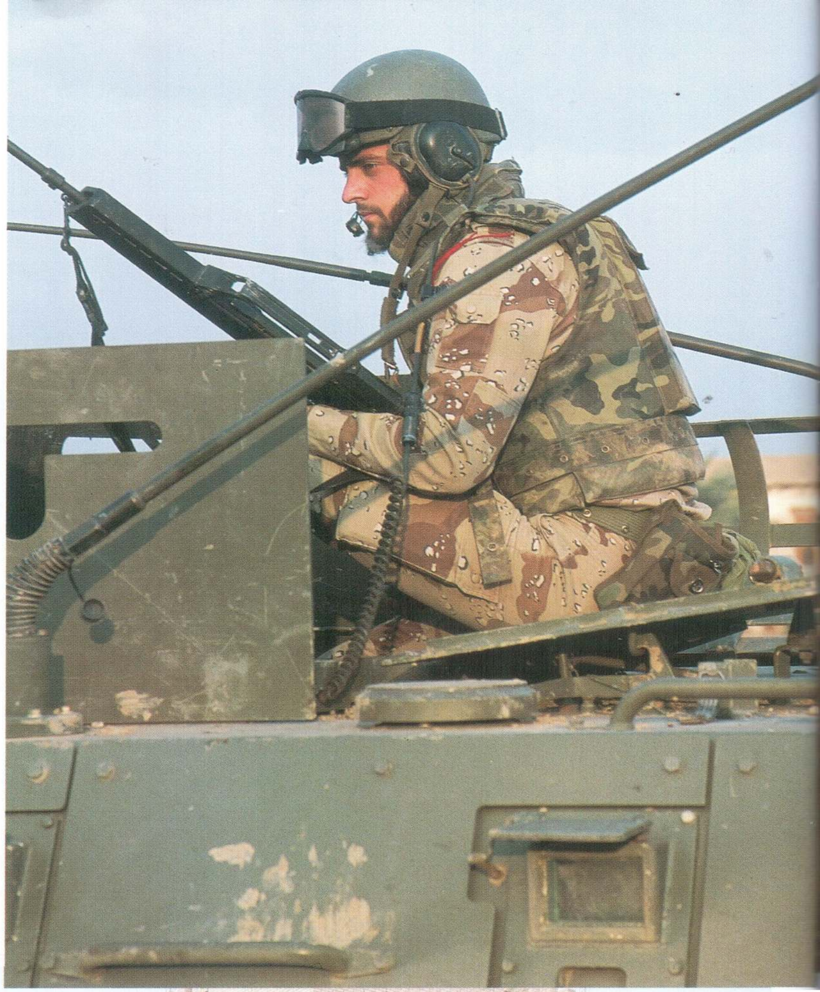


The BMR-2 also features a stowage cage mounted on the right side of the hull. Its crew compartment will be fitted with a fire detection and suppression system, and the layout of the troop compartment will also be improved.

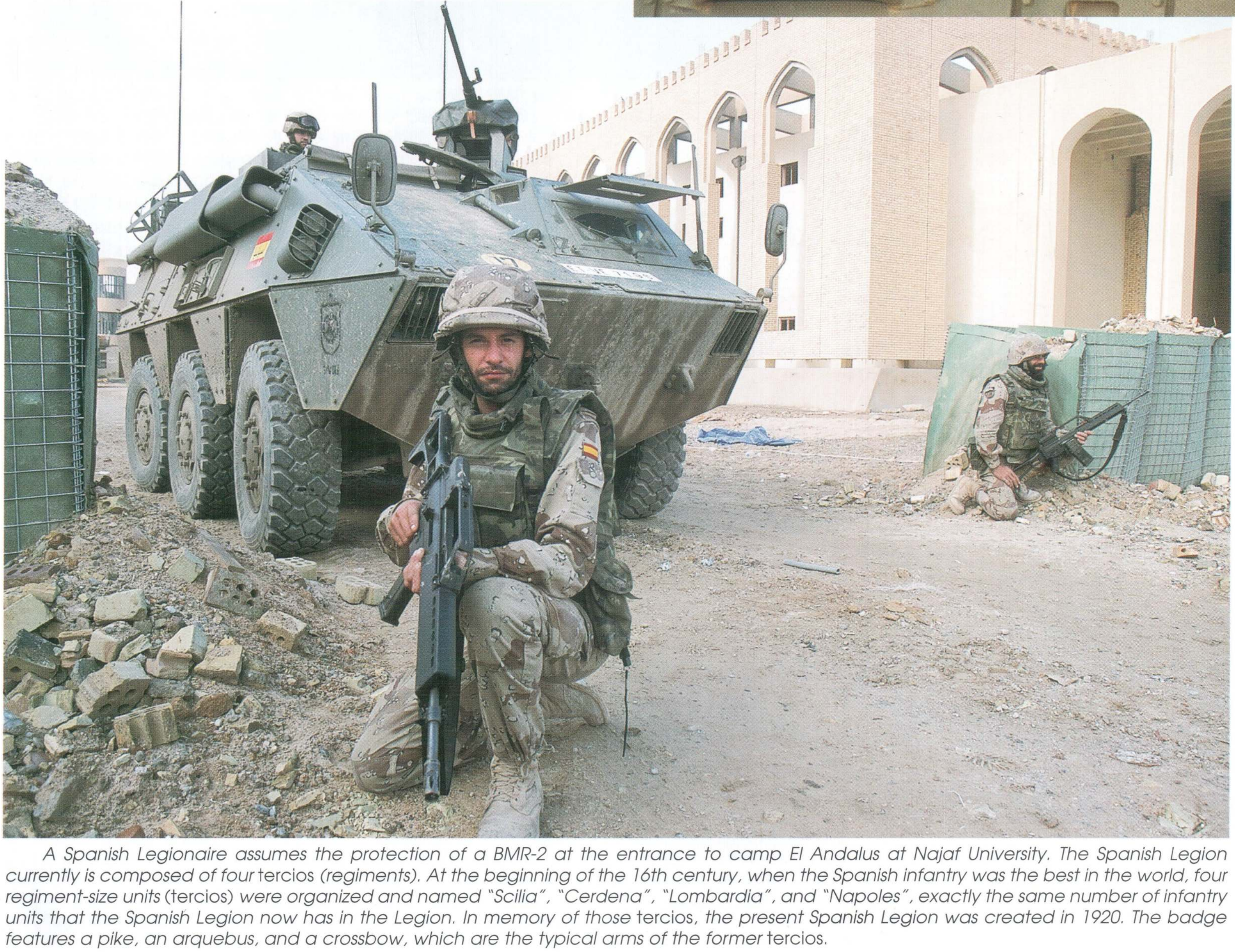
The BMR-2's engine is lighter than its old one. The weight that is saved makes it possible to fit additional passive armor onto the vehicle to increase its battlefield survivability.



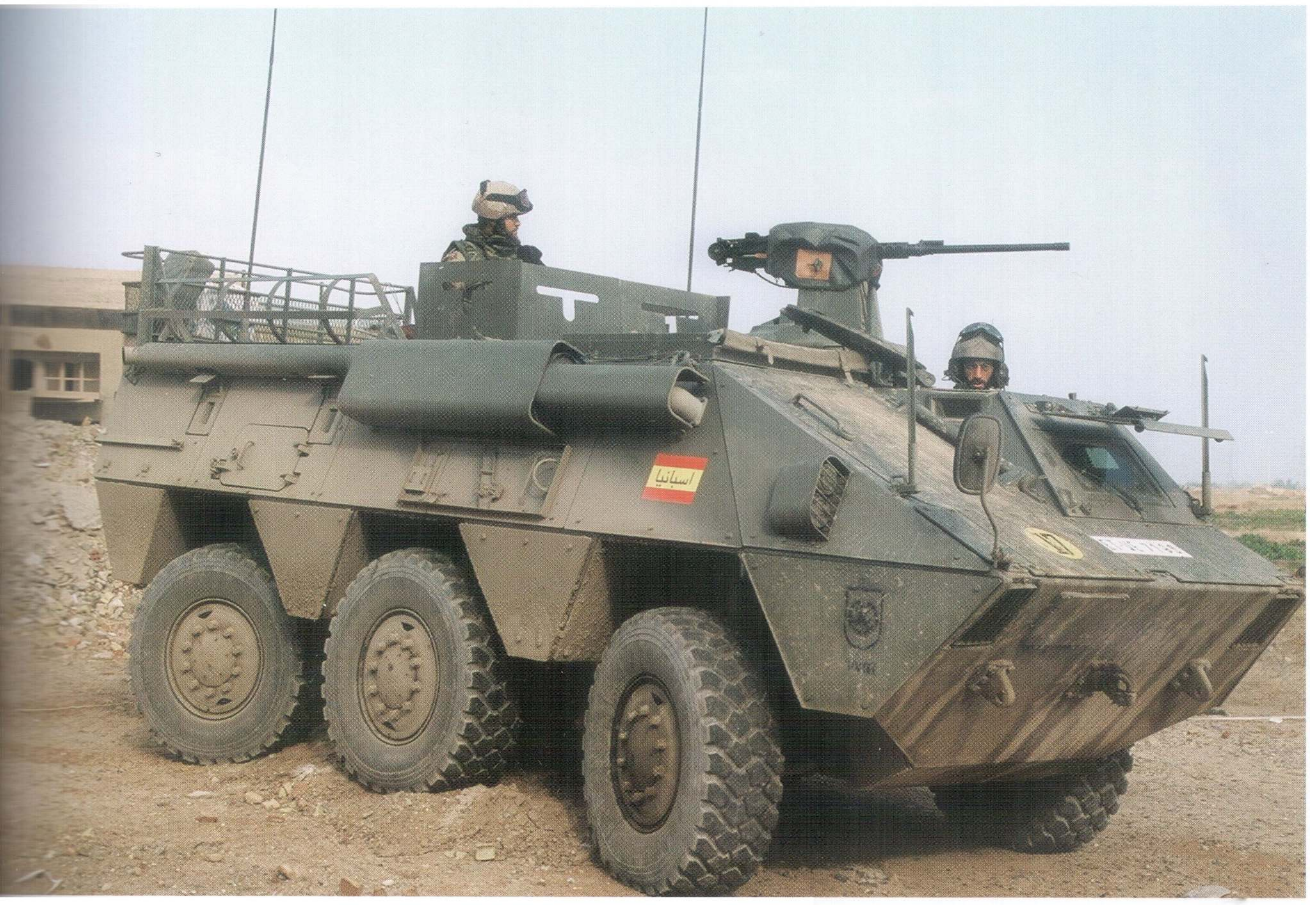
Nice view of a BMR-2 belonging to VIII Bandera of the 3rd Tercio "Don Juan de Austria" seen in front of an unfinished building at Najaf University.



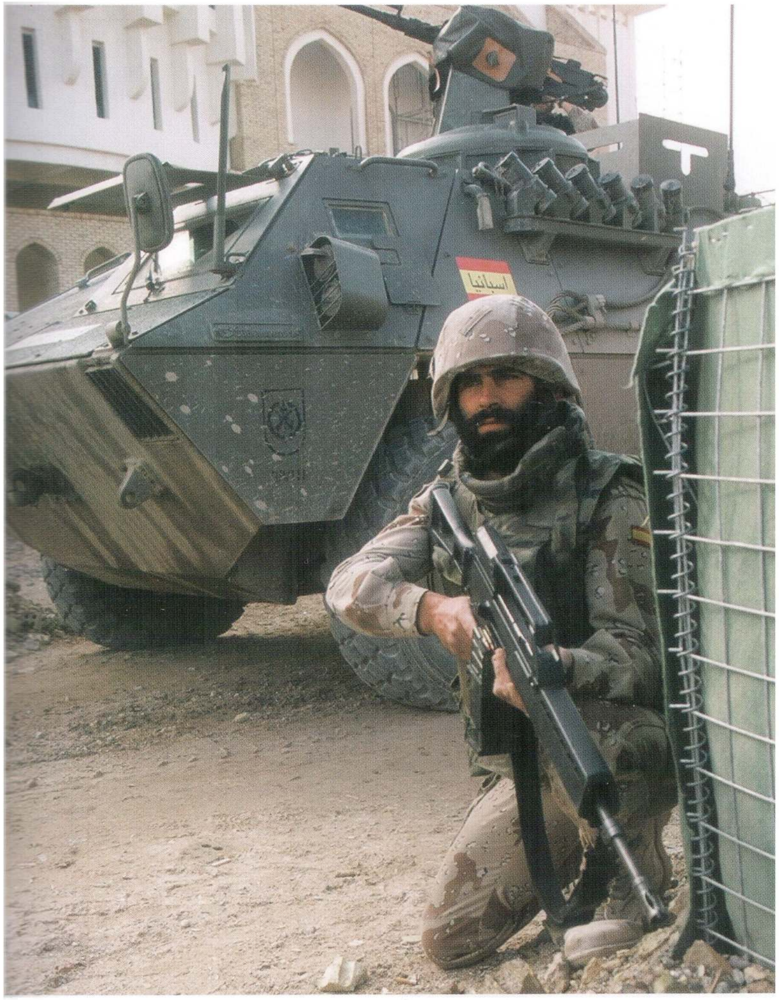
This Spanish Legionaire is the commander of a BMR-2. Note the addition of square armored plates to the roof of the vehicle to increase protection. There is also armor added to the side that may be aluminum or ceramic. It is possible that spall liners are fitted inside the troop compartment as well.



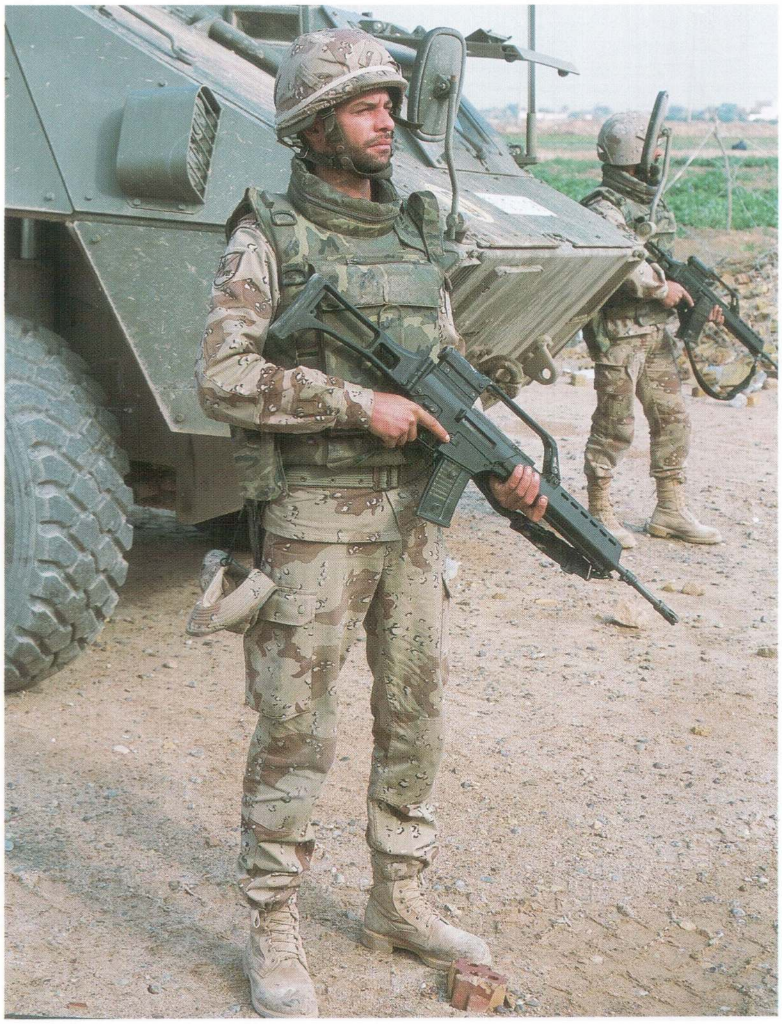
A Spanish Legionaire assumes the protection of a BMR-2 at the entrance to camp El Andalus at Najaf University. The Spanish Legion currently is composed of four tercios (regiments). At the beginning of the 16th century, when the Spanish infantry was the best in the world, four regiment-size units (tercios) were organized and named "Scilia", "Cerdena", "Lombardia", and "Napoles", exactly the same number of infantry units that the Spanish Legion now has in the Legion. In memory of those tercios, the present Spanish Legion was created in 1920. The badge features a pike, an arquebus, and a crossbow, which are the typical arms of the former tercios.



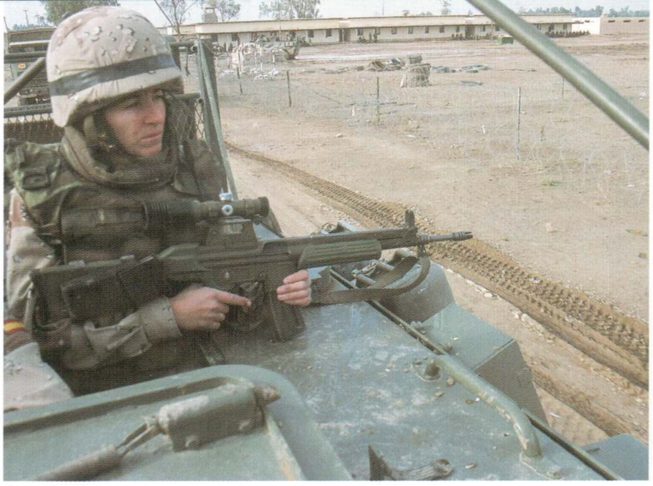
The BMR-2, which has a crew of 2 + 10, has a combat weight of 14,000 kg (30, 870 lb.) and a maximum speed of 103 km/h (64 mph). It is 6.15 meters (20 ft) long, 2.36 meters (7.7 ft) high (with armament), and 2.5 meters (8.2 ft) wide. Other characteristics are as follows: 1000 km (621 miles) maximum range; gradient: 60%; slope: 30%; and amphibious fording capacity.



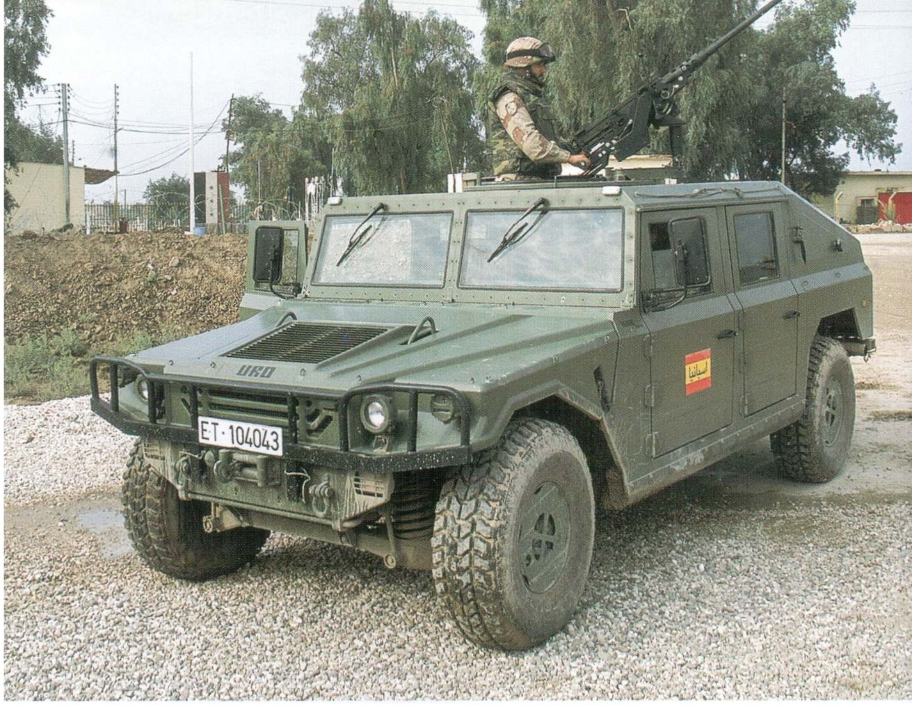
A typical bearded Spanish Legionaire takes up a position while being covered by the remote system on the BMR-2. The vehicle is fitted with the TC-3 cupola that has an externally mounted, remote control 12.7mm M2 machine gun. Other vehicles are equipped with a light mount for a Santa Barbara 40mm grenade launcher. In the future a TC-13 turret armed with an automatic 25mm cannon may replace the TC-3.



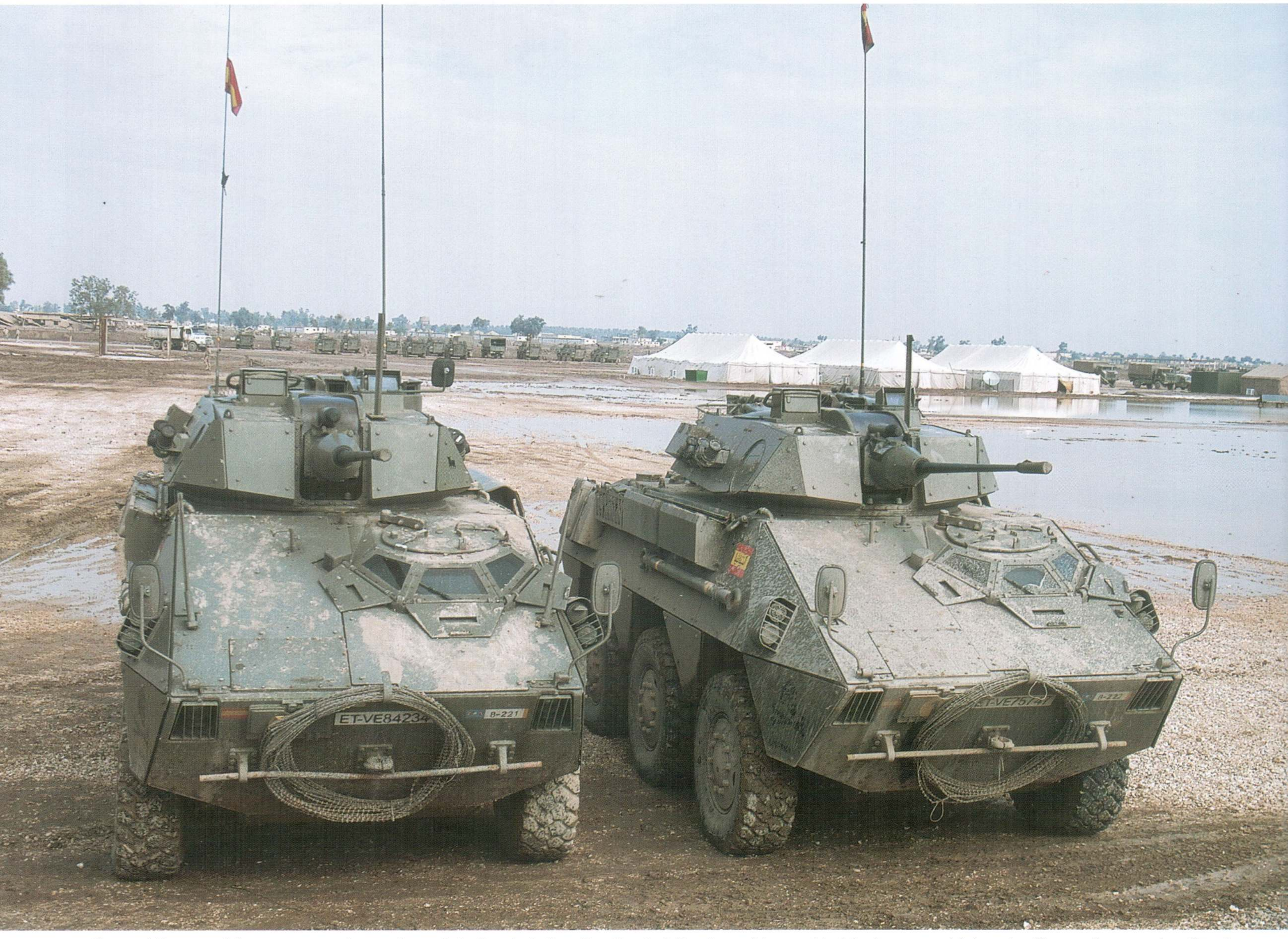
This is an interesting photo of a Spanish Legionaire of the 3rd Tercio "*Don Juan de Austria.*" He is wearing the first pattern of the US-style desert camouflage. Note the floppy hat hanging on his belt. He is armed with the G-36 rifle, which has recently replaced the CETME-L. The German 5.56-caliber rifle was adopted because the CETME-L suffered mechanical failure. Note the transparent magazine.



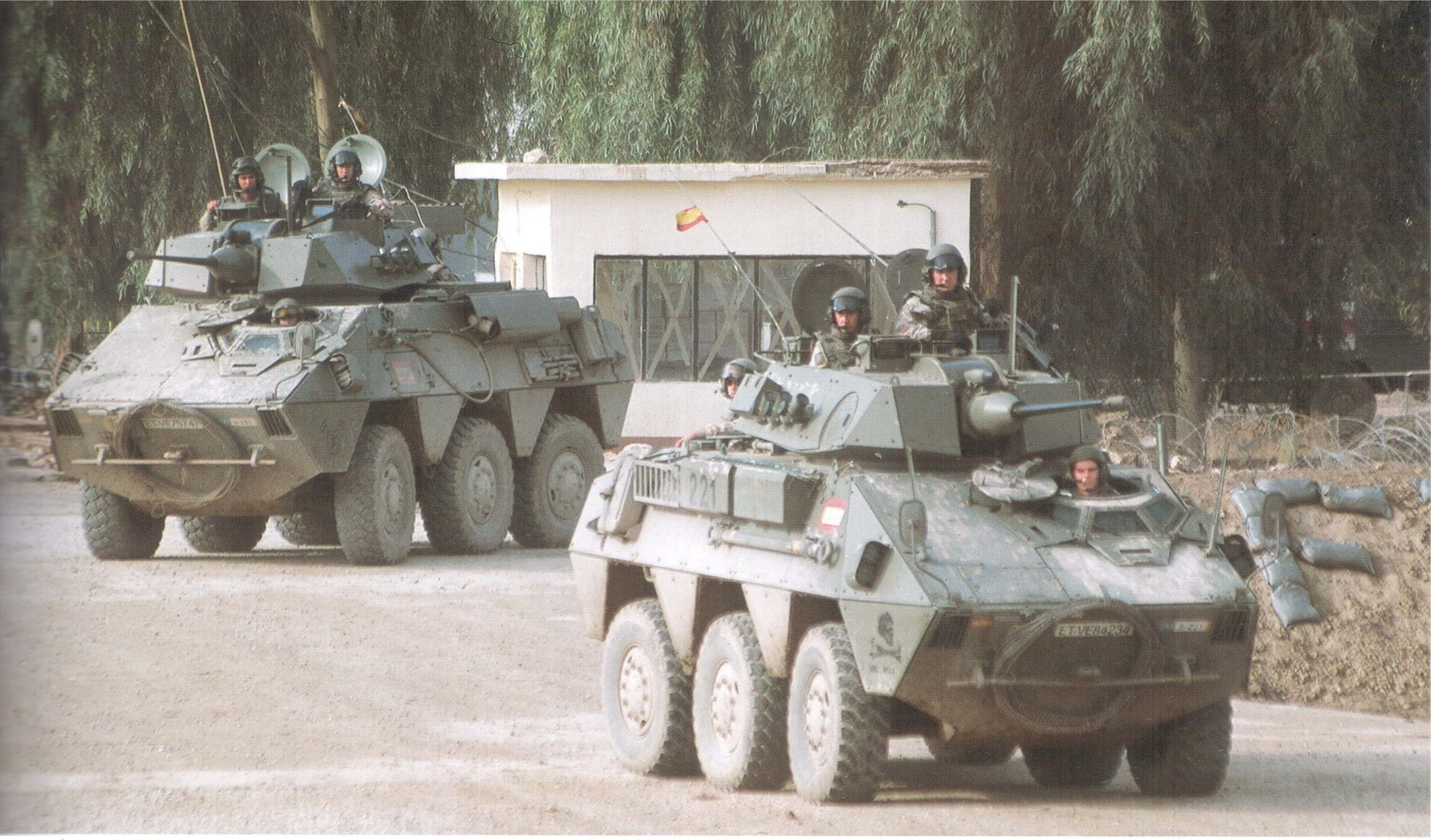
Just like many European countries and the USA, Spain suffers from a lack of personnel in the army. Consequently, some females are attached to the combat units, including the Legion. This female soldier, shown here during a patrol in Ad Diwaniyah, is armed with a CETME model L rifle, which is used because it is fitted with a night vision sight, unlike the G-36. The CETME-L fires caliber 5.56mm x 45 NATO ammunition from a 30-round magazine (an M16 magazine can be used) at a rate of fire of 600/800m/s (1968/2625 f/s). Its muzzle velocity is 875m/s (2871 f/s). The weapon measures 92.5cm (36.5 in) in length (barrel is 40cm (15.8 in) long).



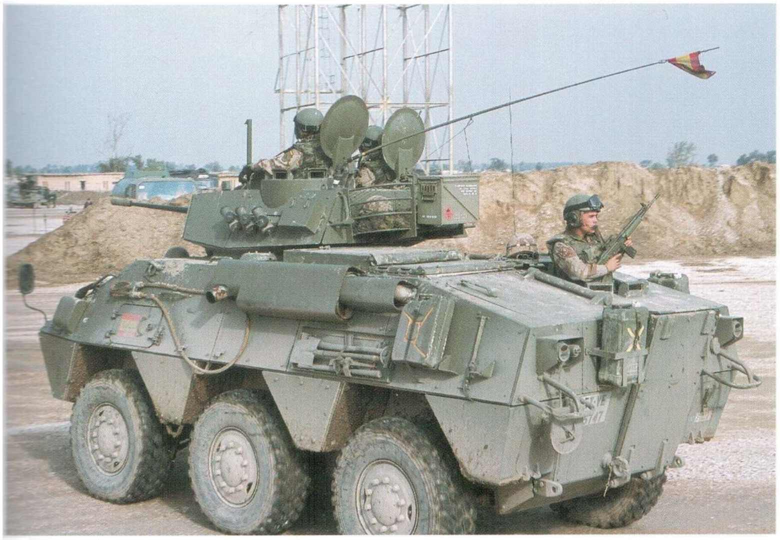
The URO VAMTAC, which is the Spanish version of the classic HMMWV, is built under license by the large, national weapon manufacturer Santa Barbara. The front of the vehicle is a little different in appearance from the US HMMWV.



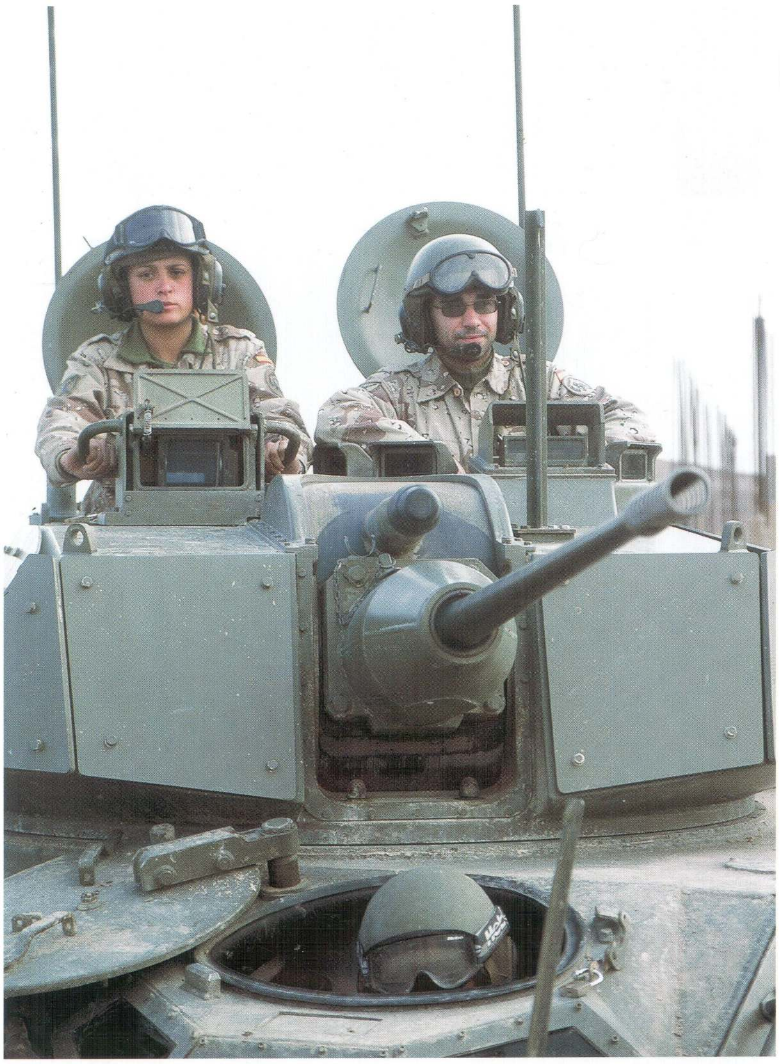
One of the most famous cavalry regiments in Spain is the "Lusitania" Regiment based in Marina near Valencia. The unit operates Centauro heavy armored cars in Spain, but the Brigade "Plus Ultra" deployed in Iraq has a squadron of VEC M-1 armored reconnaissance vehicles. Some 16 of these vehicles are used for patrols, reconnaissance and convoy escorts. Note the skull, the emblem of the regiment, on the front of the hull.



Spanish VEC M-1 recce vehicles from the "Lusitania" Regiment patrol in Iraq. The King of Spain gave permission to the regiment to carry the death's head insignia following a heroic charge against the Austrians in the 18th century in which 90% of the soldiers were killed. The "Lusitania" Regiment was the first European cavalry unit to wear such an emblem, even before the German Death's Head Hussars adopted its use.



A VEC M-1 leaves the main base of Brigade "Plus Ultra" in Ad Diwaniayh. Note the soldier in the back of the vehicle and the interesting storage. The first version of the VEC was fitted directly with a turret from the French AML Panhard-90. Of the 340 that were built, 208 were later equipped with the Otobreda TC-25 turret armed with the M242 Bushmaster 25mm cannon. The VEC M-1 is powered by the same Scania D9 six-cylinder diesel engine.



Nice front view of the TC-25 turret with its M242 Bushmaster 25mm cannon, which is also the main weapon of the M-2 Bradley infantry fighting vehicle. The combat phase of the war showed that the 25mm is one of the most devastating weapons of the campaign. The VEC carries 170 rounds of the 25mm ammunition, along with 135 HE, 35 APDS and 250 machine gun rounds.

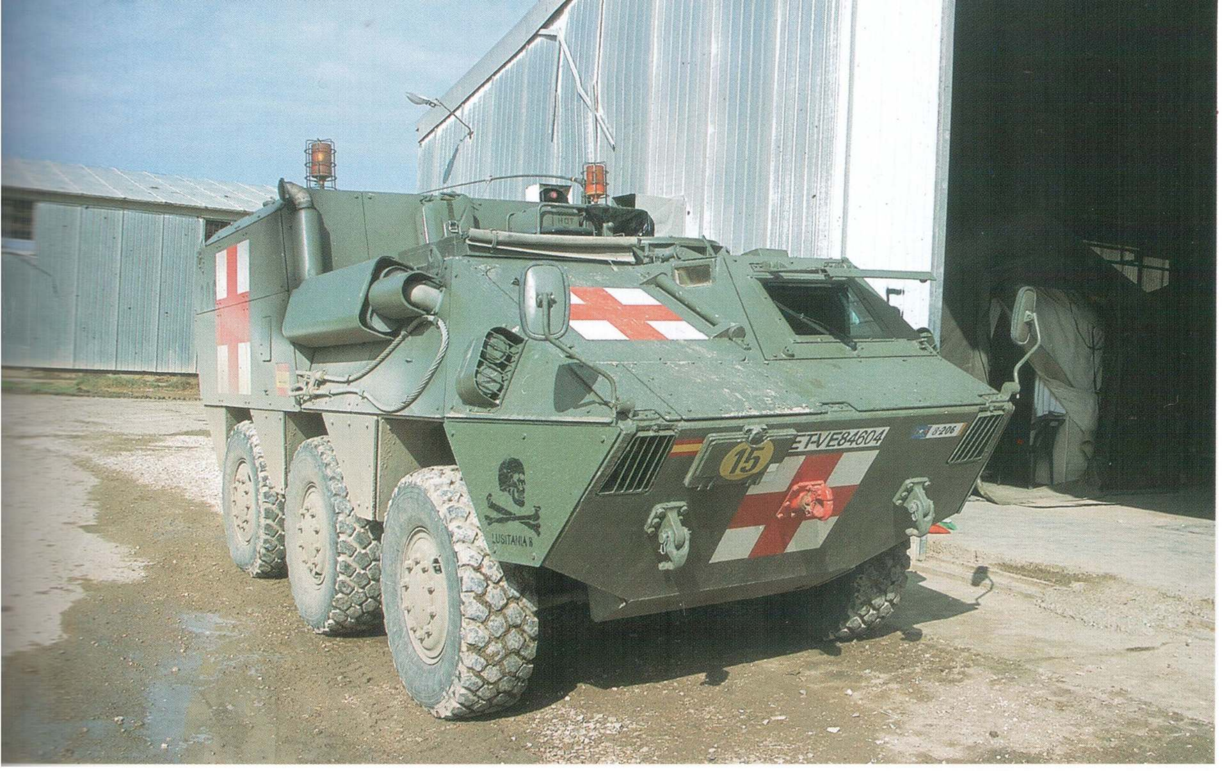
A female soldier and a sergeant (tank commander) from the "Lusitania" Regiment are shown in the turret of a VEC M-1 in Najaf. Note the desert camouflage and the skull shoulder patches.

The dimensions of the VEC M-1 are as follows: 6.10m (20 ft) long, 2.5m (8.2 ft) wide, and 2m (6.5 ft) high. With a combat weight of 13,750kg (30,319 lb.), the vehicle has a maximum speed of 103 k/h (64 mph) and a maximum range of 800km (497 miles).

A VEC from a platoon in the "Lusitania" Regiment detached to Najaf. The armored reconnaissance vehicles carry a crew of three: diver, commander, and gunner, plus two disembarking scouts.

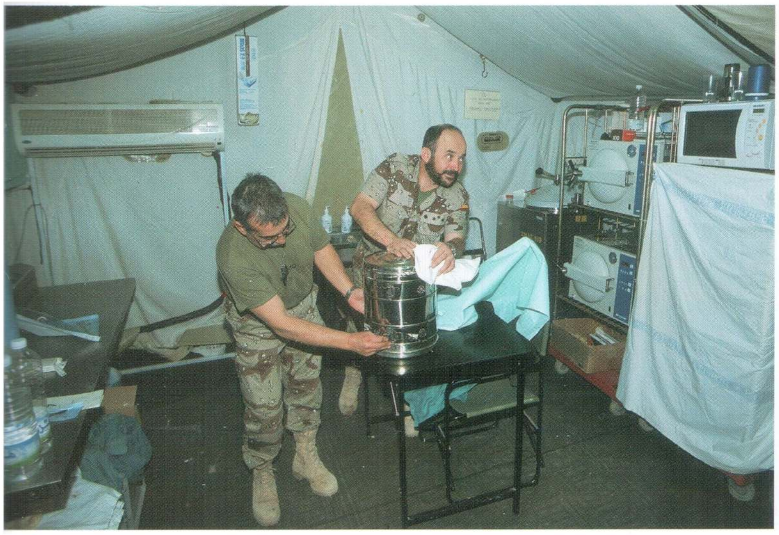
Military police from the Brigade "Plus Ultra" perform a Nissan patrol. The VII "Galacia" heliborne brigade supplies all of the command and support troops. Note that the rear ramp of the vehicle is down to allow for quick disembarking in case of ambush. The Nissan is also equipped with an MG-42 machine gun.

An Iveco truck transports an engineer version of the BMR-2, which is fitted with a dozer blade.



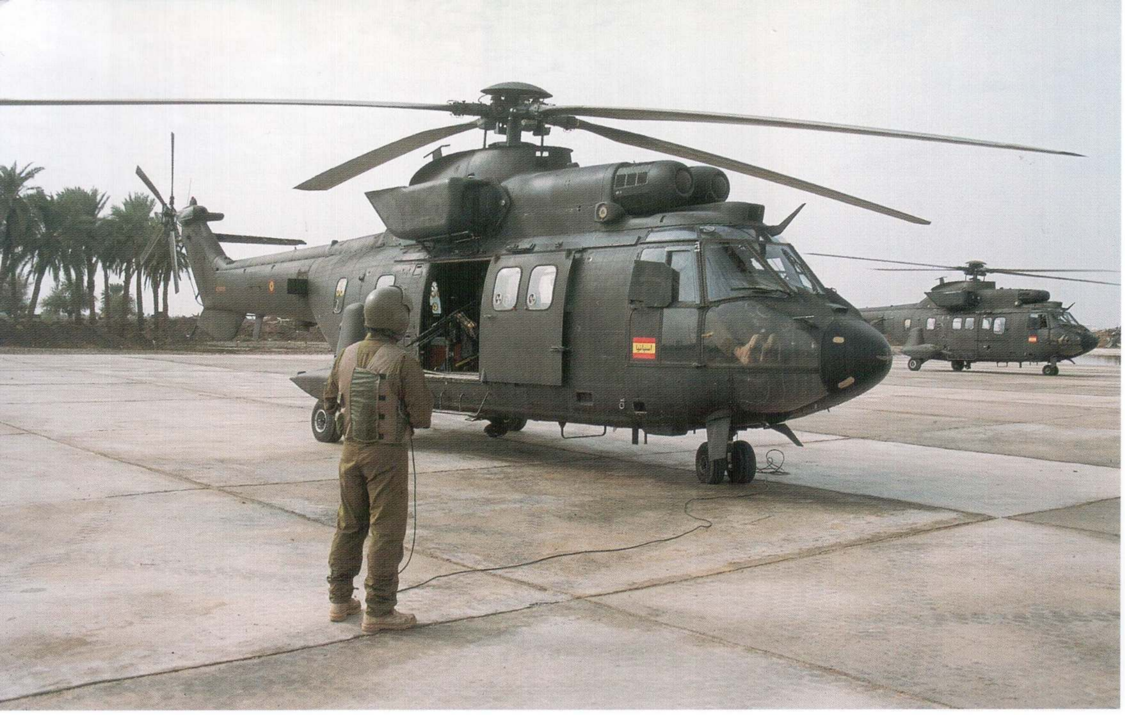
The "Lusitania" Regiment provided the Spanish field hospital with four BMR-2 ambulances. This model is in service in the armies of both Egypt and Spain, which has 16 of them.

The ambulance version of the BMR has a crew of four: driver, commander (who is a medic), assistant medic, and a stretcher man. The BMR-2 ambulance can carry four patients on stretchers or two stretcher patients and four seated wounded.



A Spanish medic in action at the Equipo Aranzado de Ejercito de Terra, *the Army's mobile hospital, which has twenty beds ready for use. This campaign hospital can accommodate three surgeons operating at the same time. Some wounded US soldiers from the nearby MP company received assistance at this hospital following a mortar attack.*

This door gunner of a Super Puma belonging to BHELMA 4 is ready to assume the security of the helicopter during a tactical flight. The weapon is the classic MG-42.



Ad Diwaniyah air base is also the nest of a small Spanish light aviation detachment from the FAMET (Spanish Army Air Corps). It consists of two Cougar helicopters of BHELMA 2 (Batalion Helicoptero de Manrobia), a medium maneuver helicopter battalion, and four Super Puma helicopters (like the one seen here) of BHELMA 4. Their main missions included transport, MEDEVAC, and VIP and special forces operations. Several times the Spanish helicopters came under fire from light weapons fire, but they sustained no heavy damage.

Indians and a Holy Grave

At the entrance to Najaf, traffic suddenly slows down because a large American 7-ton truck is blocking the road. On the roof, a .50-caliber machine gun that is trained on the row of vehicles is more than a little dissuasive. The troops controlling the cars are dressed like Americans in the sand-colored camouflage of the US Army. But their small stature and unique facial features quickly indicate that these soldiers are not GIs.

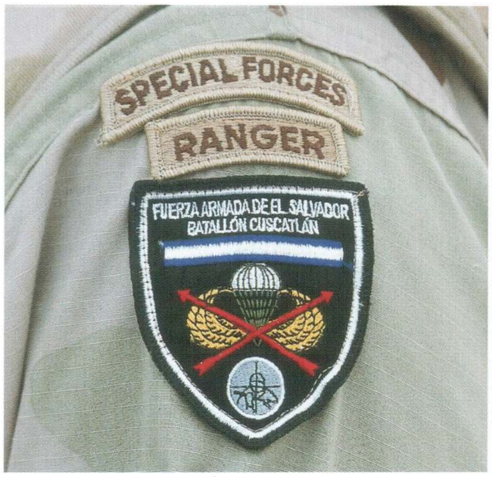
"ID, Señor," The Iraqi civilians comply respectfully. before them are small "Indians" belonging to the special of San Salvador, who honed their skills through 20 years of fighting communist *subversivos*. These troops are the elite part of the contingent that Central America sent to Iraq.

Najaf, one of the great Shi'ite holy cities, is home to the Al Haidan mosque that contains the remains of Ali Ibn Abi Talib (600-661 A.D.), cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet, fourth Imam of Islam, and founder of Shiism. Proof of the confidence that the coalition headquarters staff has in the Latin American countries, the safety of this holy city was entrusted to the "Cuscatlan" Battalion of San Salvador and the "Xatruch" Battalion of Honduras. A company of Spanish Legionaires and a VEC platoon from the "Lustiania" Regiment sometimes reinforce them.

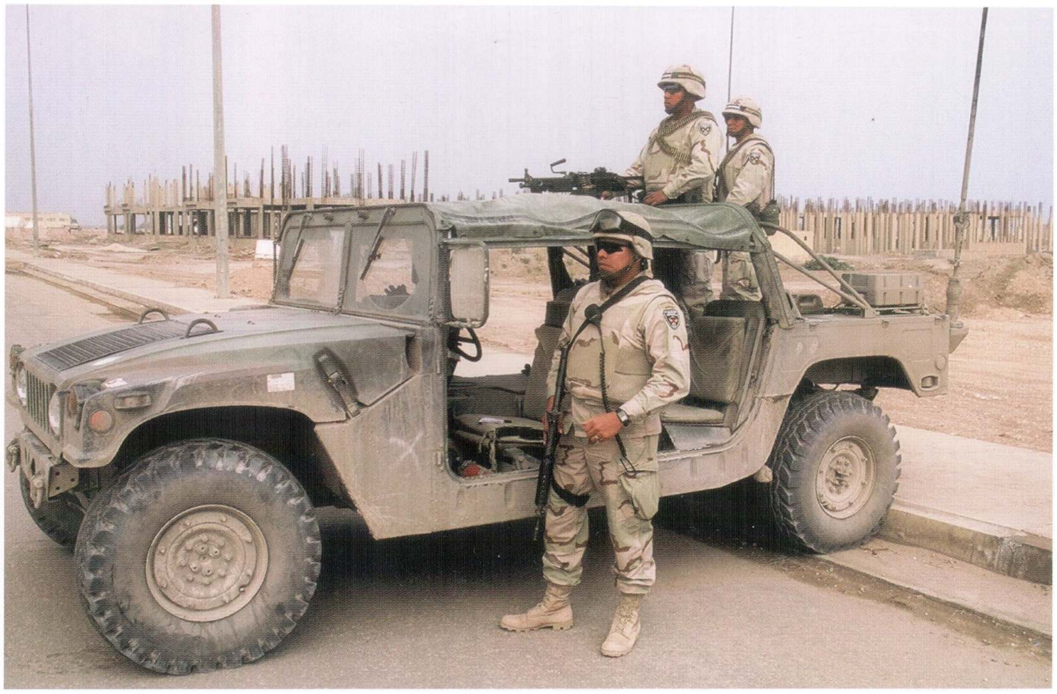
The "Cuscatlan" Battalion (former Indian name for Salvador) is formed from the paratrooper battalion, the anti-terrorist battalion, and special reconnaissance patrols based in Ilopango. Some 360 Salvadoran soldiers work in Najaf and are oraganized around a staff company, a commando group, and two rifle companies.

The "Xatruch" Battalion, which is named after the Honduran general that captured the English pirate William Walker, is based at the Tegucigalpa camp in a suburb of Najaf. Made up of 370 soldiers, it is composed of a staff company, a logistic company, two motorized rifle companies, and a company of military police.

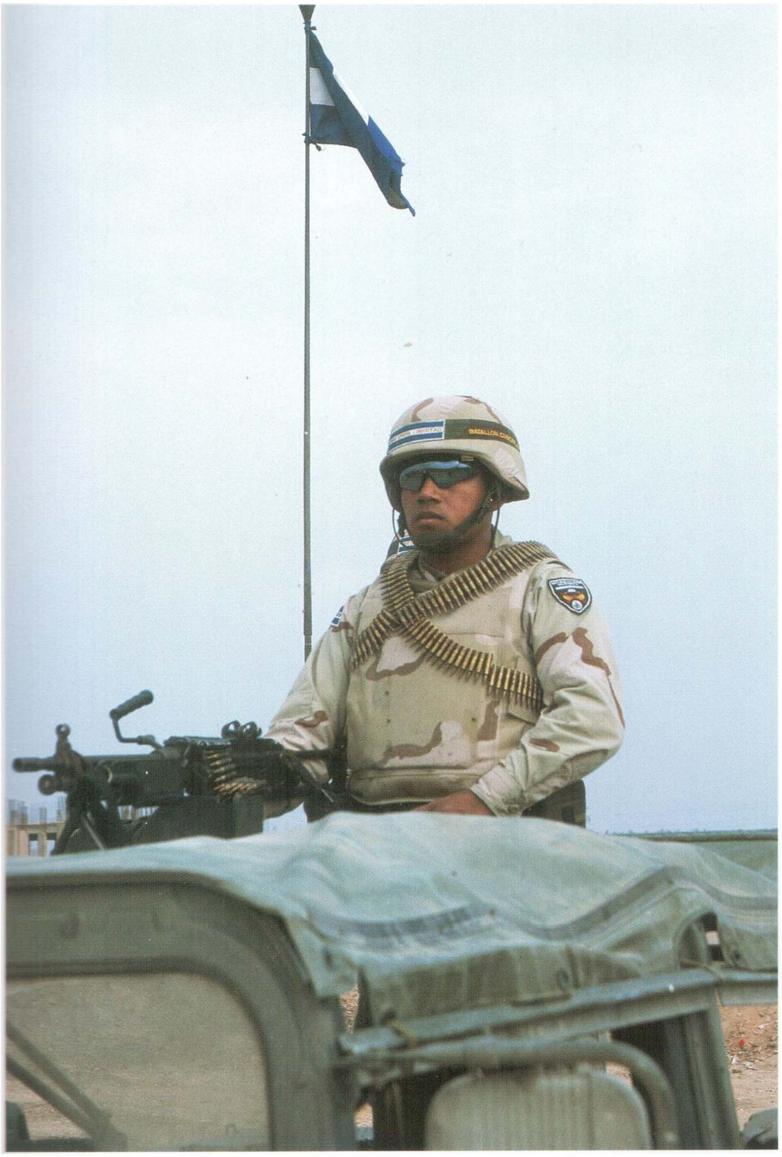
The US Army supplied these units with 7-ton trucks and HMMWVs, as well as part of the light armament and the desert camouflage uniforms. One of the missions of the Central Americans is to guard the numerous depots in the region where the weapons of the former Iraqi Army are stored. In less than ten days of our visit to the Salvadoran and Honduran battalions, each was subjected to a mortar attack that happily claimed no victims.



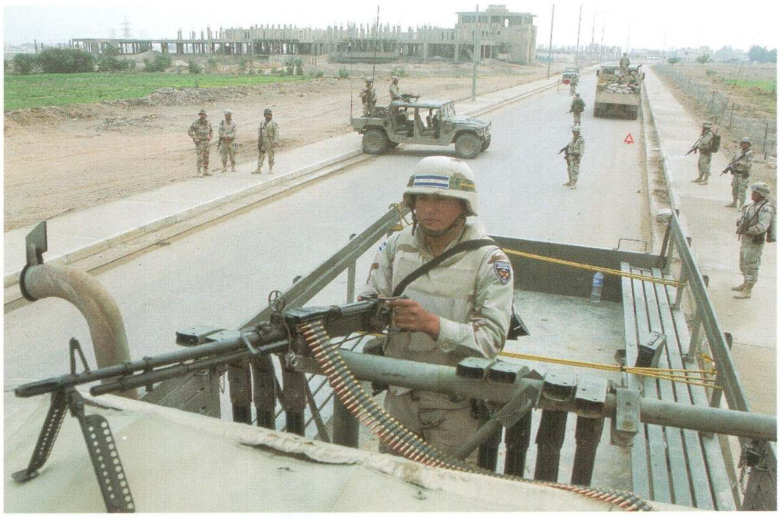
Shoulder patch of the "Cuscatlan" Battalion, which bears the former Indian name of San Salvador. The "Cuscatlan" Battalion consists of a staff, a HQ and logistic company, two airborne infantry companies, and a commando (special forces and anti-terrorist) company. Some 360 San Salvadoran soldiers serve in these units. Some of them, especially the NCOs, have taken part in the anti-guerilla war against communism in the early 1990s.



The Salvadoran soldiers of the "Cuscatlan" Battalion keep watch at a checkpoint near Najaf University. This HMMWV is the command vehicle for several other vehicles, including HMMWVs and 7-ton trucks.

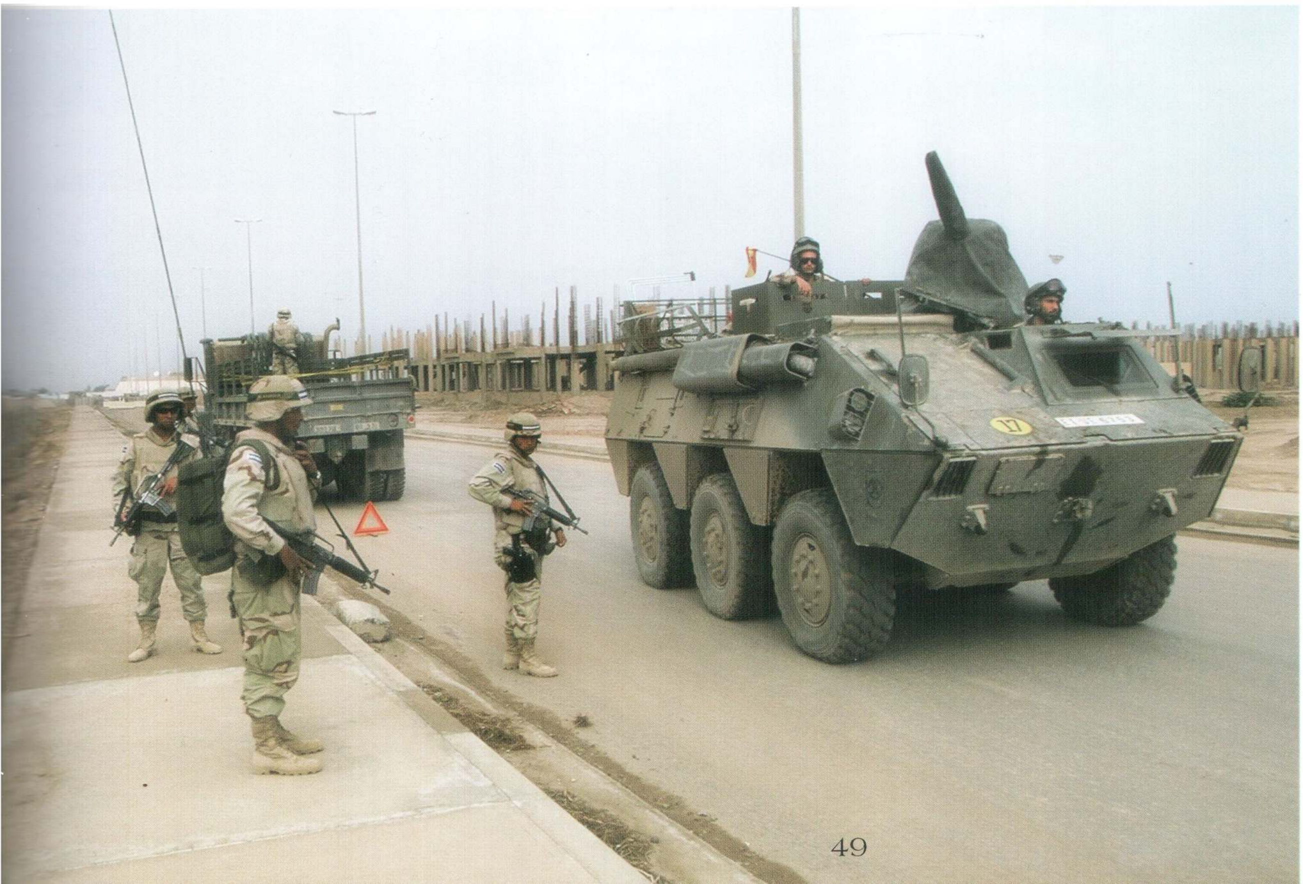


The Salvadoran HMMWV is fitted with a MINIMI machine gun. It is difficult to know if this is a Belgian-manufactured FN MINIMI or a whether the weapon is a US-made M249 Squad Automatic Weapon received from military assistance.

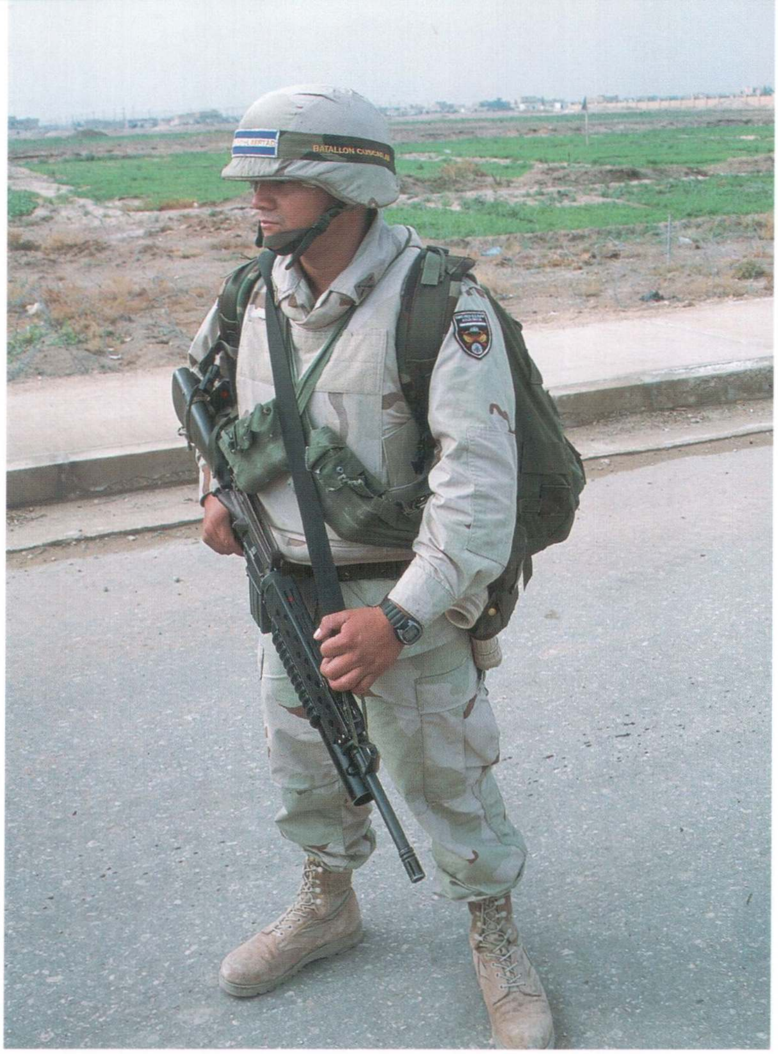


A general view of the Salvadoran-manned checkpoint shows 7-ton trucks and a HMMWV. The machine gun on the 7-ton truck is an M60D.

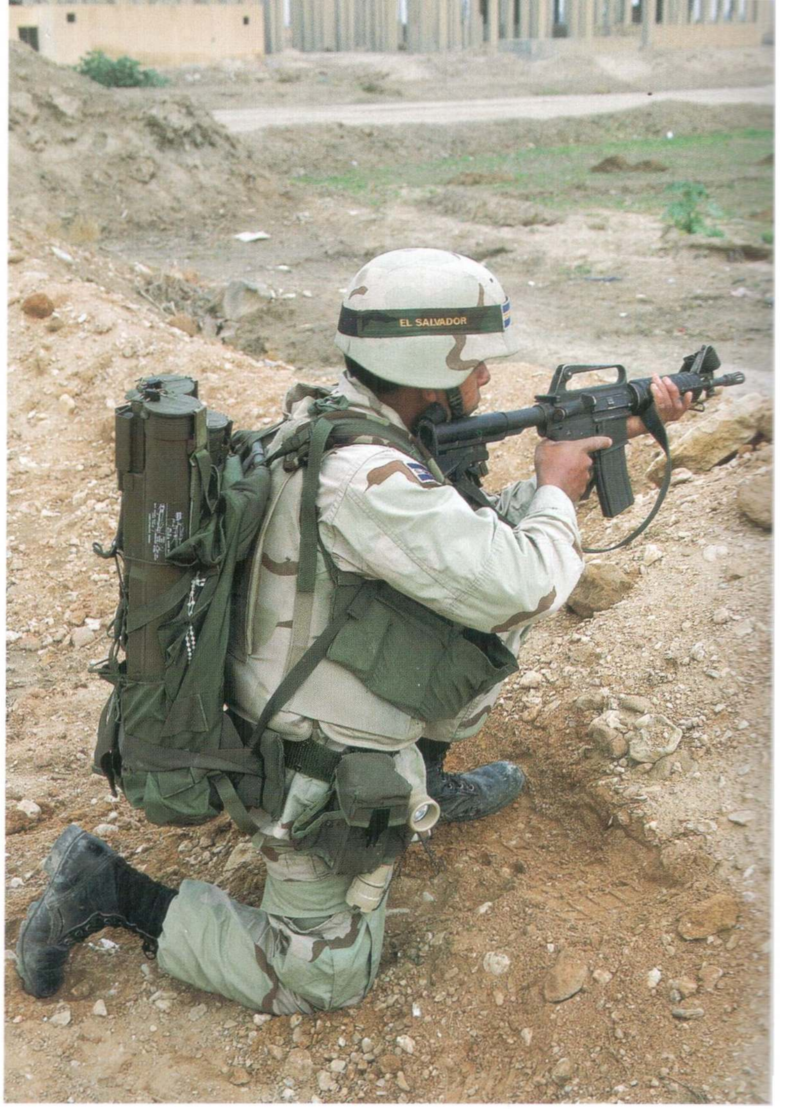
Mobile checkpoints are one of the best ways to apprehend "bad guys" in Iraq. The checkpoints in Kosovo are only effective for about a half an hour maximum due to the use of cell phones for alerting others of their existence. But the checkpoints in Iraq are a bit more effective because the country is not covered by the net, and the Turaya cell phone lines are jammed by coalition forces.



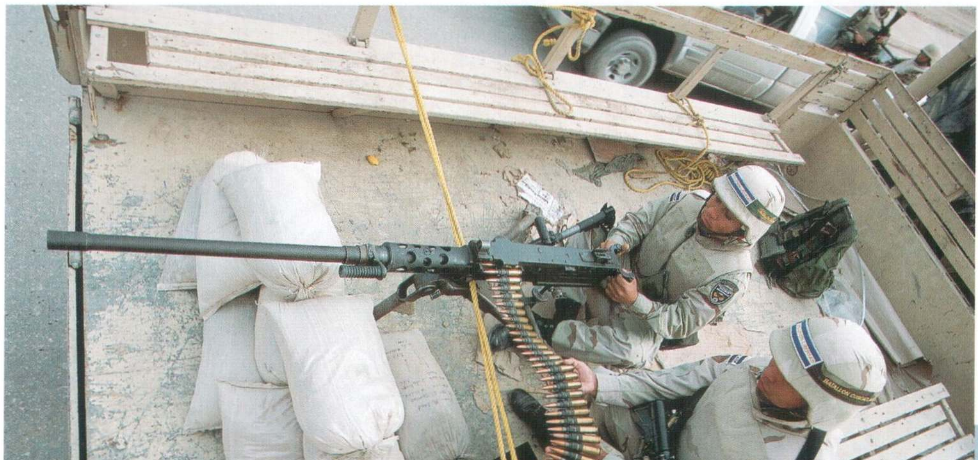
A Spanish BMR-2 of the Legion passes near a checkpoint operated by troops from San Salvador. The Spanish BMR-2s provide the Central American contingent with heavy support if it is needed.



This member of the San Salvador's "Cuscatlan" Battalion is armed with an M16A2 assault rifle. These troops wear a band around the camouflaged covers of their "Fritz"-type helmets that features the blue and white national colors of San Salvador and the name of the battalion.

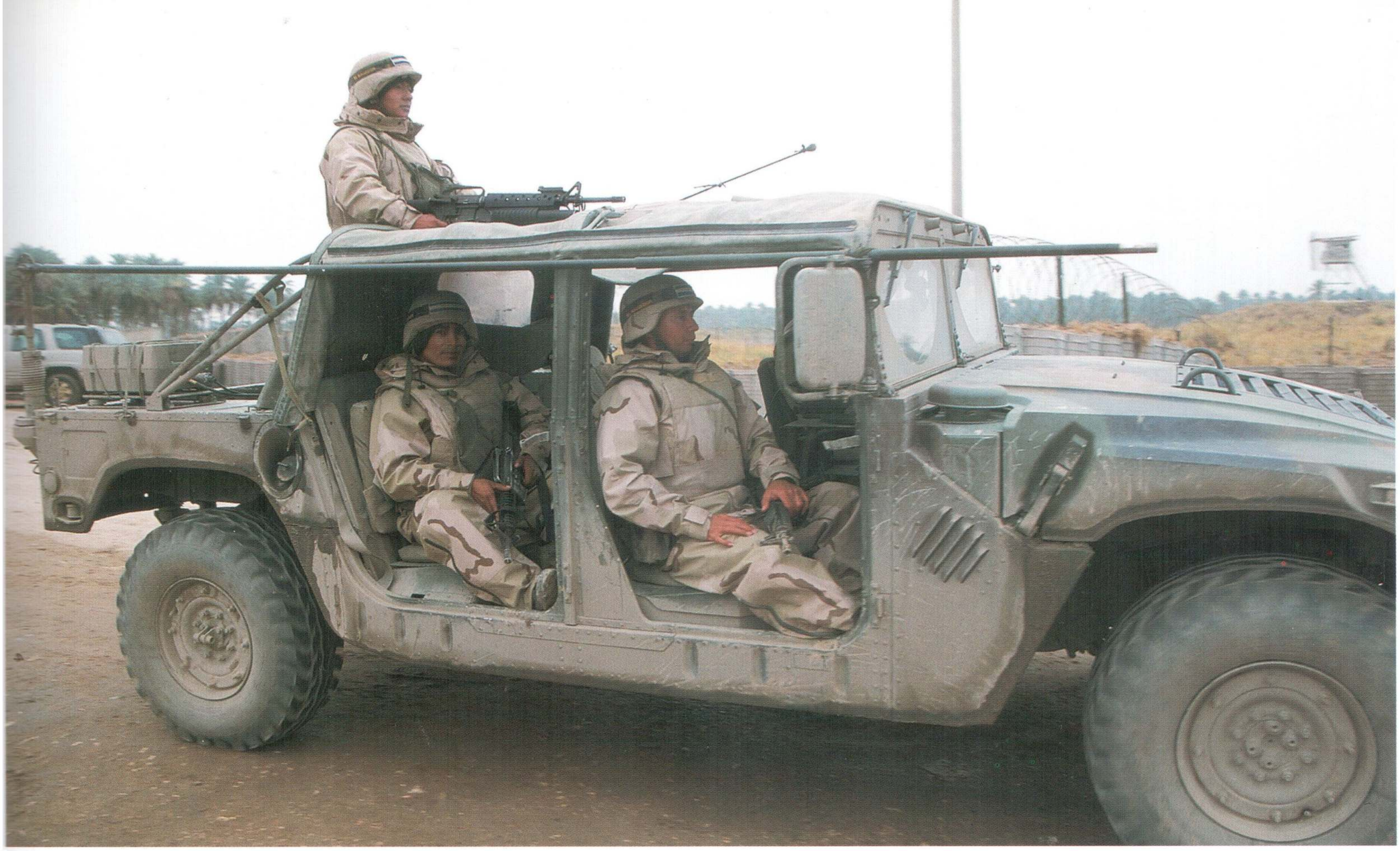


Armed with an M4 Carbine, a soldier belonging to San Salvador's "Cuscatlan" Battalion takes up a defensive position at a checkpoint. Note the LAW M-72 rocket launcher on his back.



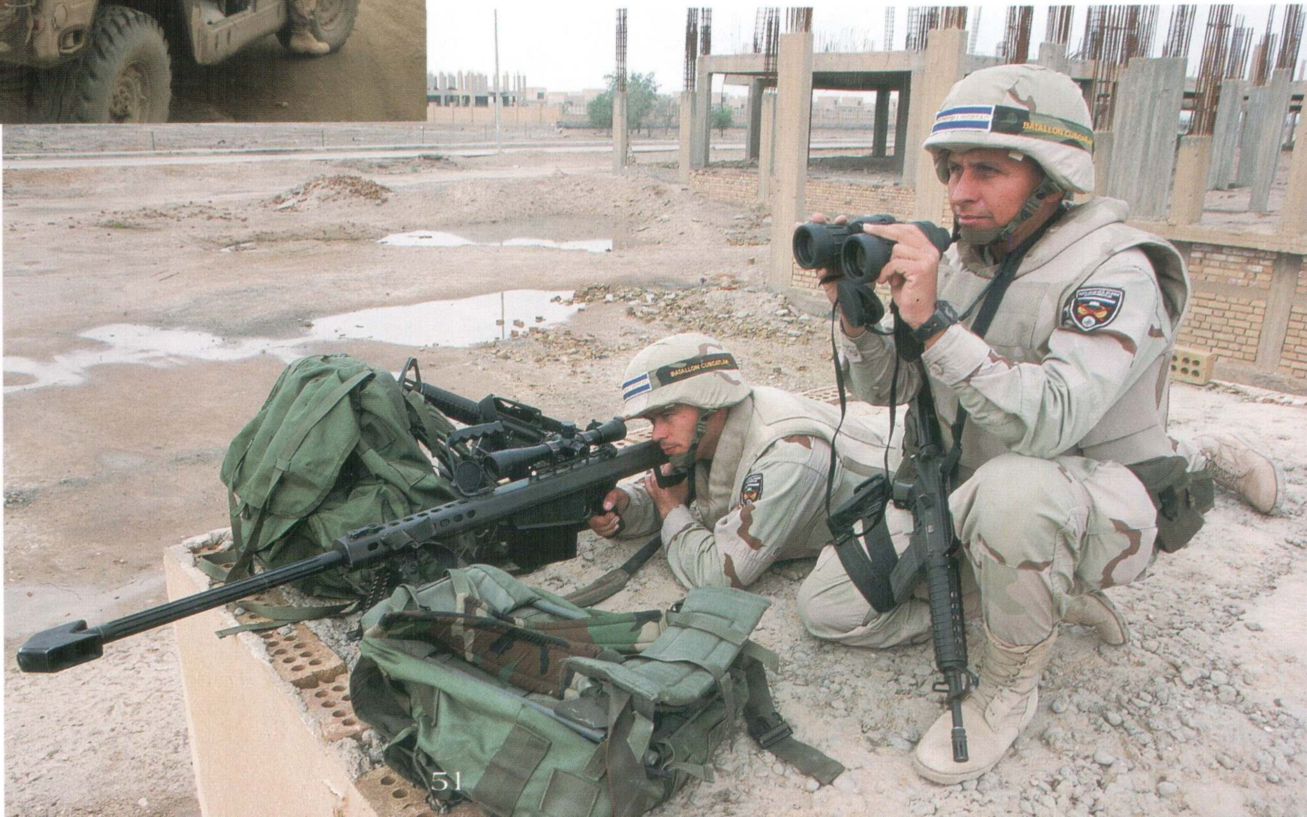
This 7-ton truck is equipped only with sand bags to protect this Salvadoran machine gun crew. Note that the .50-caliber MG is fitted with the Belgian FN quick-change barrel system developed for the M2 HB machine gun. The M2 HB/QCB eliminates tedious headspace adjustment, ends the possibility of dangerous errors, saves operating time, and reduces the risks taken in action when adjusting headspaces.

The 7-ton trucks are the main heavy vehicles of the San Salvador and Honduras contingent. Their obvious weakness is that they are not armored and are particularly vulnerable in case of ambush.

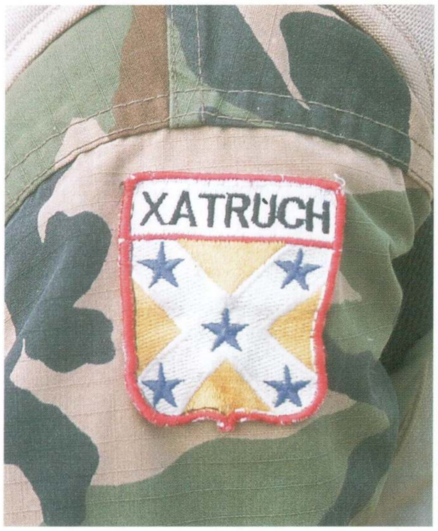


The San Salvadoran contingent is equipped with a large number of brand new HMMWV vehicles, and the HMMWV is the main light vehicle used by these troops.

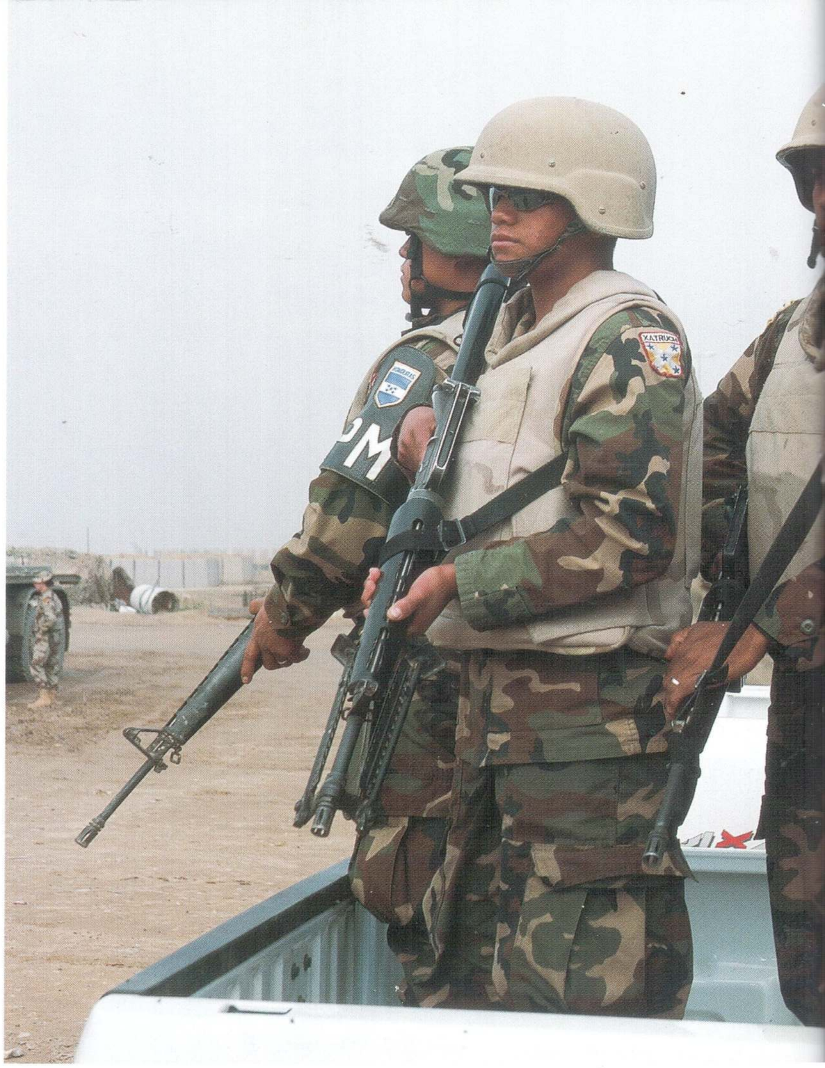
Some of the HMMWVs operated by the San Salvadorans are used to patrol on the Saudi border in an effort to control smuggling.



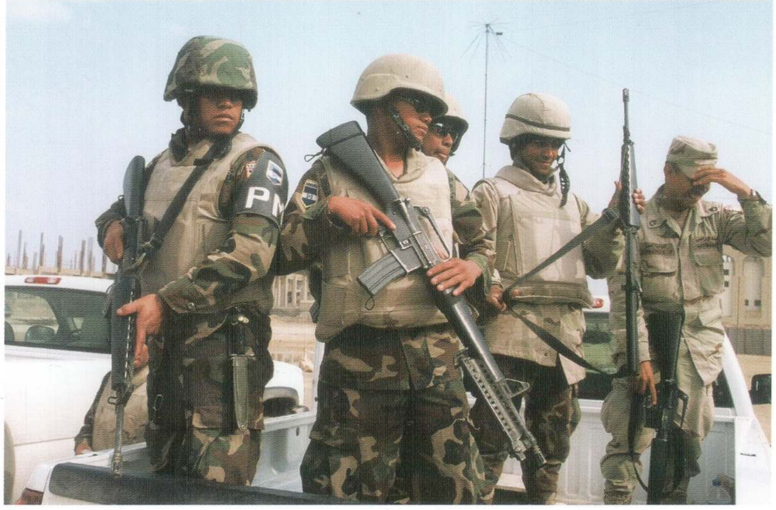
The San Salvadoran "Cuscatlan" Battalion possesses considerable firepower. Here a Barrett M82A1 heavy sniping rifle is seen in a non-camouflaged position. Its purpose is to show the flag and deter any attack. The Barrett M82A1 heavy sniper rifle uses Browning .50-caliber (12.7mm x 99) ammunition. It weighs 13.4 kg (29.5 lb.) and is nearly 160 cm (63 in) long.



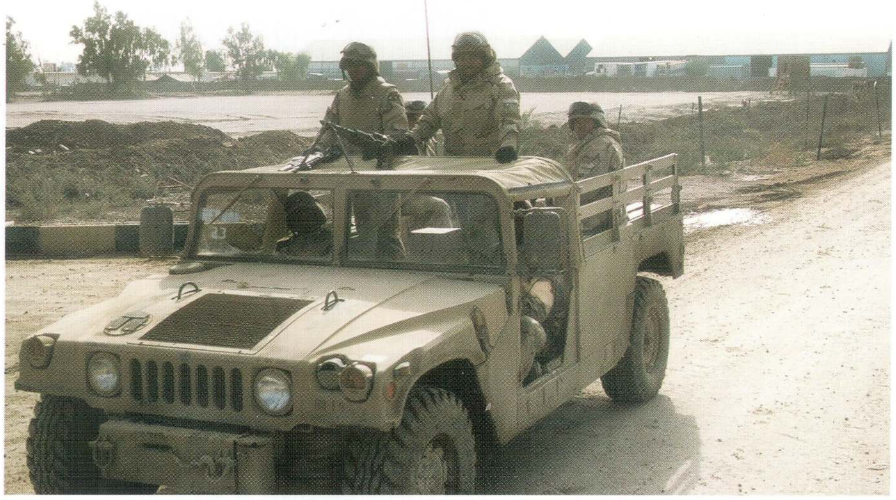
The shoulder patch of the Honduran "Xatruch" Battalion.



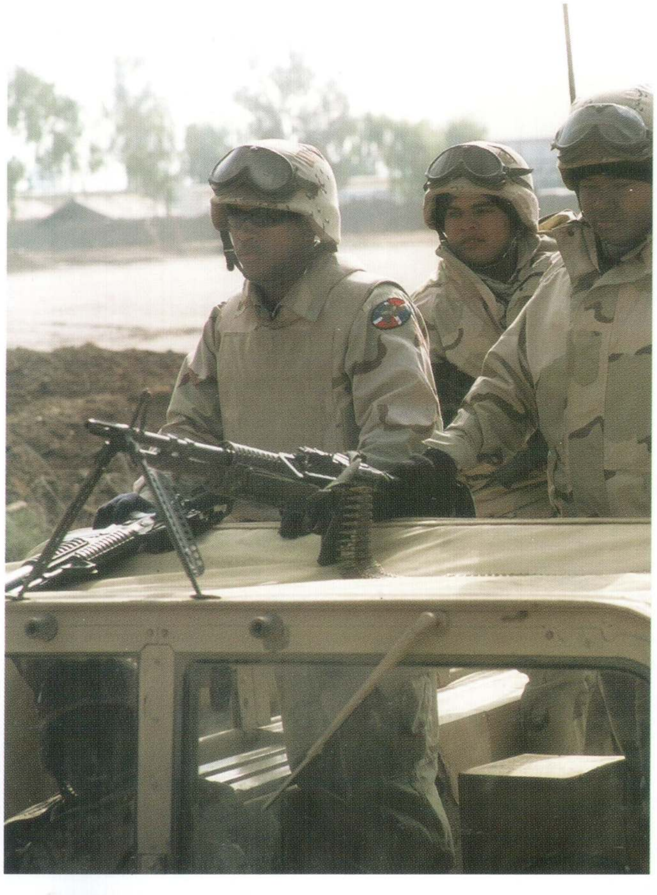
These soldiers are military policemen from the 370-strong Honduran battalion deployed to Iraq. The "Xatruch" Battalion is composed of two infantry companies, an MP company, a staff company, and a logistic company. One of the missions of the battalion is to keep watch on the Iraqi Army's former ammunition depot to prevent resistance forces from stealing mortar rounds, explosives and artillery shells in order to make explosive devices.



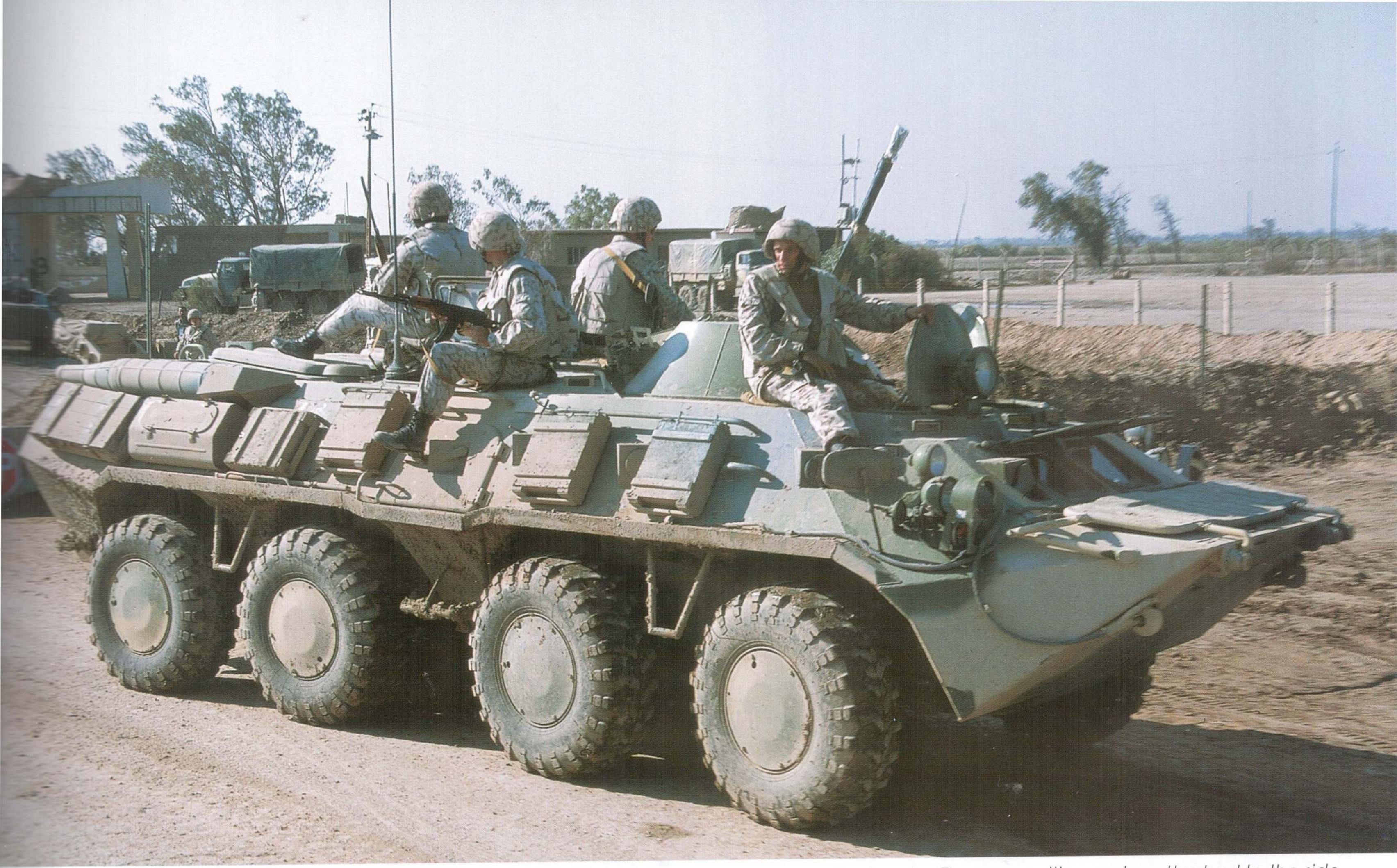
The Honduran MPs are armed with the M16A1, the first version of the famous US assault rifle. Three of the soldiers wear normal spring camouflage and one NCO wears desert pattern battle dress. Note the bipod on the rifle.



The small Caribbean states provided to the coalition a 302-strong motorized infantry battalion totally equipped by the US. They are operating in the northern part of the Spanish AOR. Our photo shows a liaison HMMWV of the Dominican Republic battalion during a visit to the HQ at Camp Babylon.



Like the other soldiers from Central America, the Dominicans wear US camouflage and are equipped with the M16A2 and the M60 machine gun.



BTR-80s carrying troops leave the large Ukrainian camp near Al Kut to patrol along the border. The ammunition crates attached to the side of the hull are probably filled with sand to increase the protection of the BTR-80, its crew of three, and the seven soldiers it transports.

The combat weight of a BTR-80 is 13.6 tons. Able to reach a maximum speed of 90km (56 mph), the vehicle has a maximum range of 600km (373 miles).

Bulgarians and Ukrainians

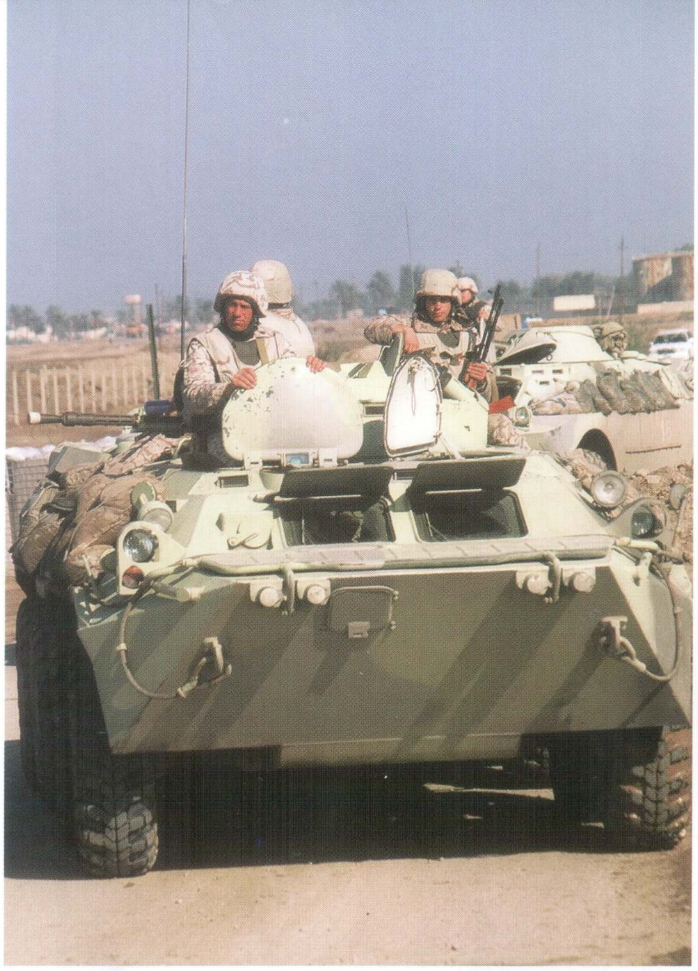
Brigade Combat Team-2 is based at Al Kut, an important hub of communication on the Tigris River. Ukraine provides the personnel who patrol this frontier region that extends to the border of Iran. The two Ukrainian motorized battalions, which are mounted on BTR-80s, keep watch of the frontier from ancient small forts worthy of the desert of the Tartars.

Everyone is aware that certain decisions made in Tehran could have an enormous impact on this region. Al Kut, which witnessed the defeat of the English in 1915, is a mirror of the current situation. The city, which has a "wait-and-see" attitude and shows neither hostility nor sympathy toward the coalition, prepares itself for the next series of events.

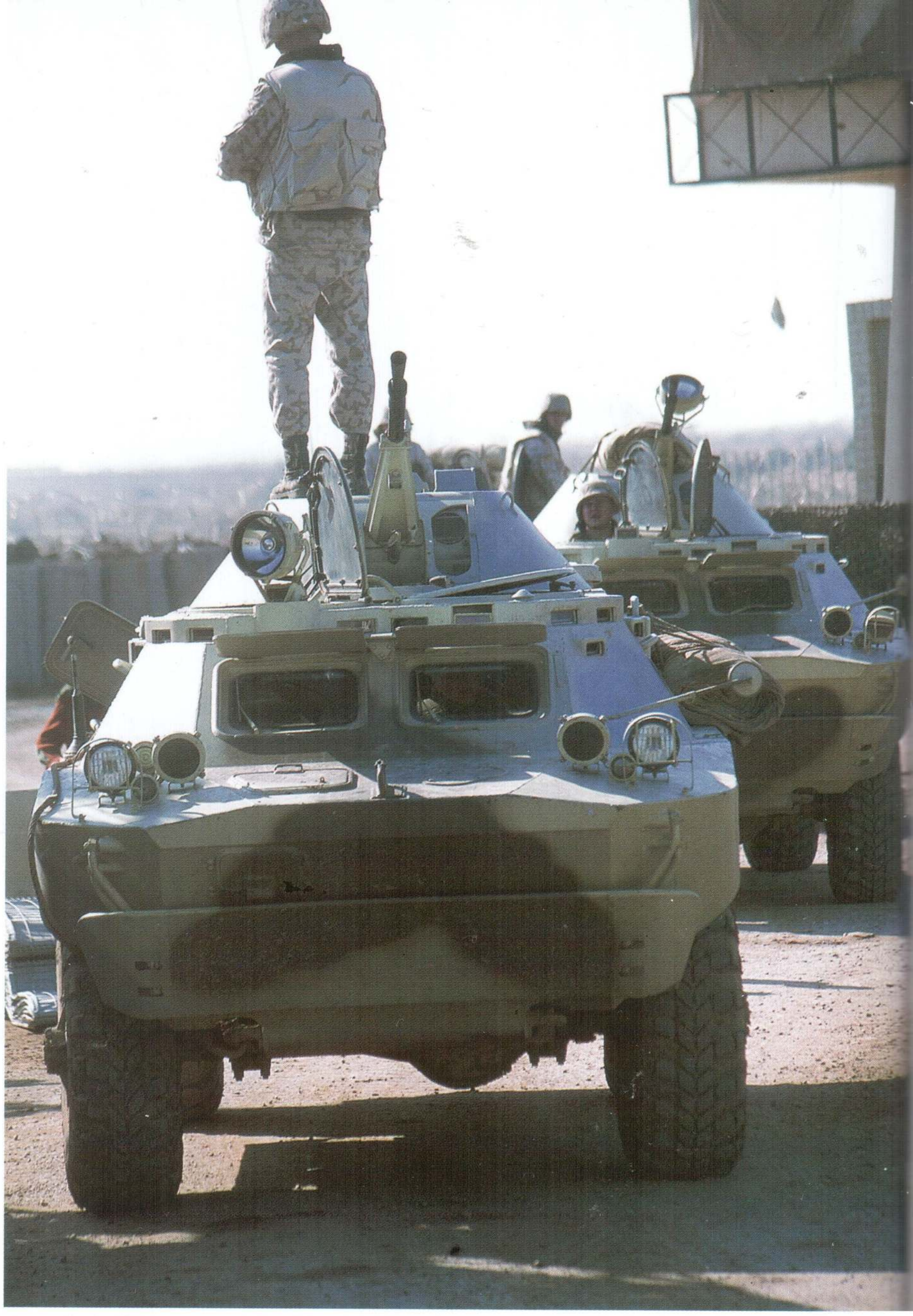
We had no time to visit the Bulgarian motorized battalion, which along with a company of Polish engineers and the other support units, watches over Karbala and its two famous mosques at Al Hussein and Al Abbas, the Mecca of Shi'ism. The Bulgarians are equipped with some 20 BMP-1/2s and BRDM-2s. On 27 December, a well-organized attack involving four suicide vehicles coupled with RPG-7 and mortar fire was launched against their HQ and other civil institutions, including the city police station. It resulted in 19 deaths, five of which were Bulgarian, and 130 wounded persons. [Editor's Note: On 2 March 2004, hundreds of Shi'ite pilgrims were murdered in Karbala and Baghdad in a series of coordinated terrorist bombings that occurred during a holy festival.] These attacks demonstrate that nothing is settled in Iraq, and in the months to come the MND (CS) will no doubt face further challenges.

Number of Participants in the MND (CS)

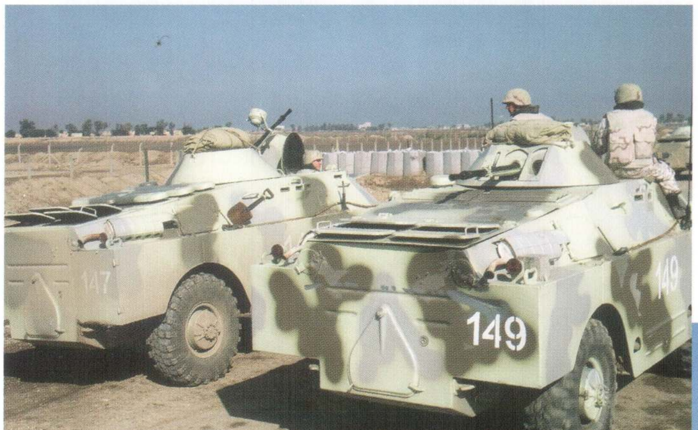
Poland: 2370; Ukraine: 1637; Spain: 1197; Bulgaria: 473; Hungary: 295; Denmark: 6; Netherlands: 6; Norway: 5; Kazakhstan: 28; Nicaragua: 113; Thailand: 87; The Philippines: 96; Slovakia: 77; Romania: 214; El Salvador: 360; Honduras: 371; Mongolia: 171; Dominican Republic: 302; Latvia: 102; Lithuania: 45.



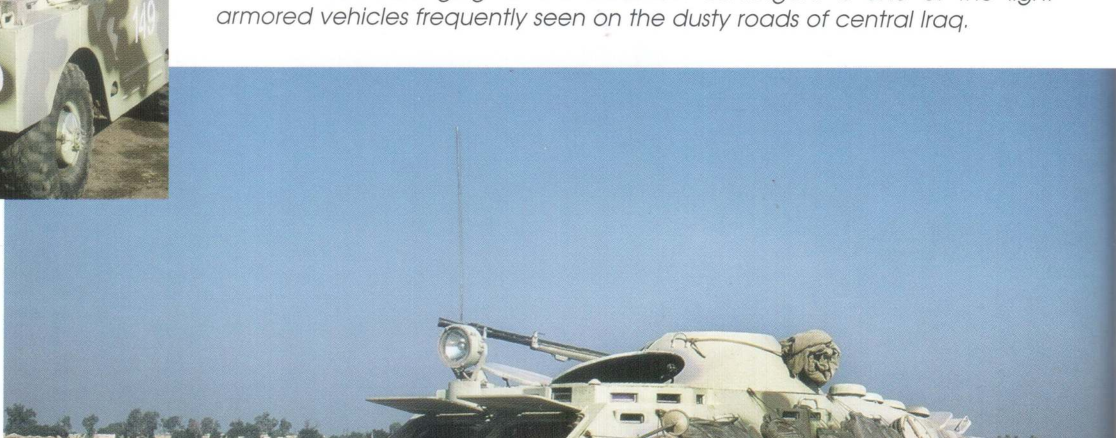
A BTR-80 escorts a Ukrainian convoy. The silhouette of the Russian armored APC is still one of the best. Since the time it gained its independence, the Ukraine has taken part in a large number of peacekeeping missions.



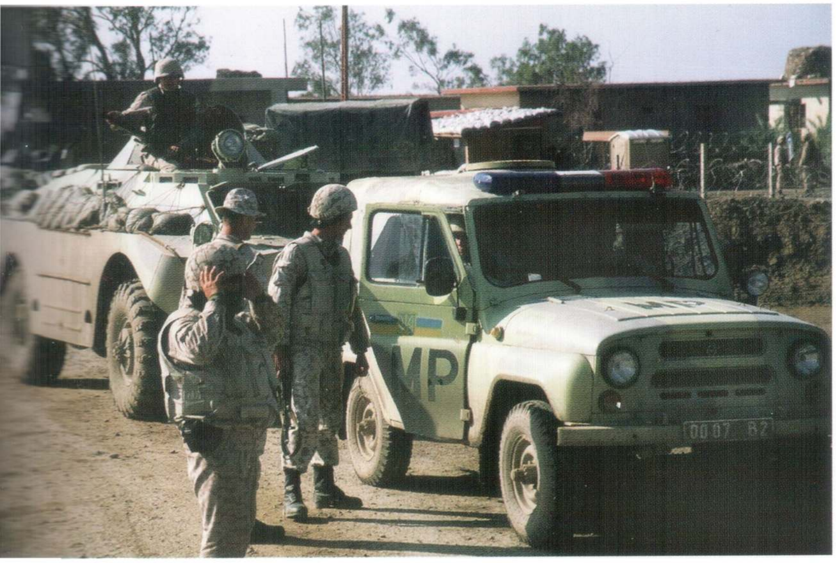
As is the case within the Polish, Mongolian and Bulgarian contingents, the BRDM-2s belonging to the Ukrainian contingent is one of the light armored vehicles frequently seen on the dusty roads of central Iraq.



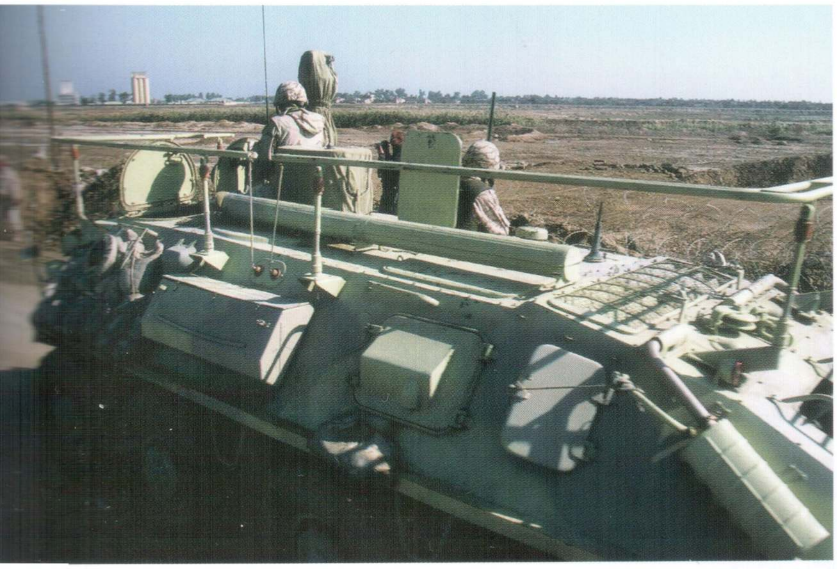
It is interesting to see the variety of camouflage and markings on the BRDM-2 vehicles used by the various contingents.



The sand bags placed on the hulls of the armored vehicles are meant to produce a premature explosion of an RPG-7 rocket if one hits the vehicle. An RPG-7 could easily destroy a BRDM-2, so it is wise to take any additional measures to protect the vehicle.

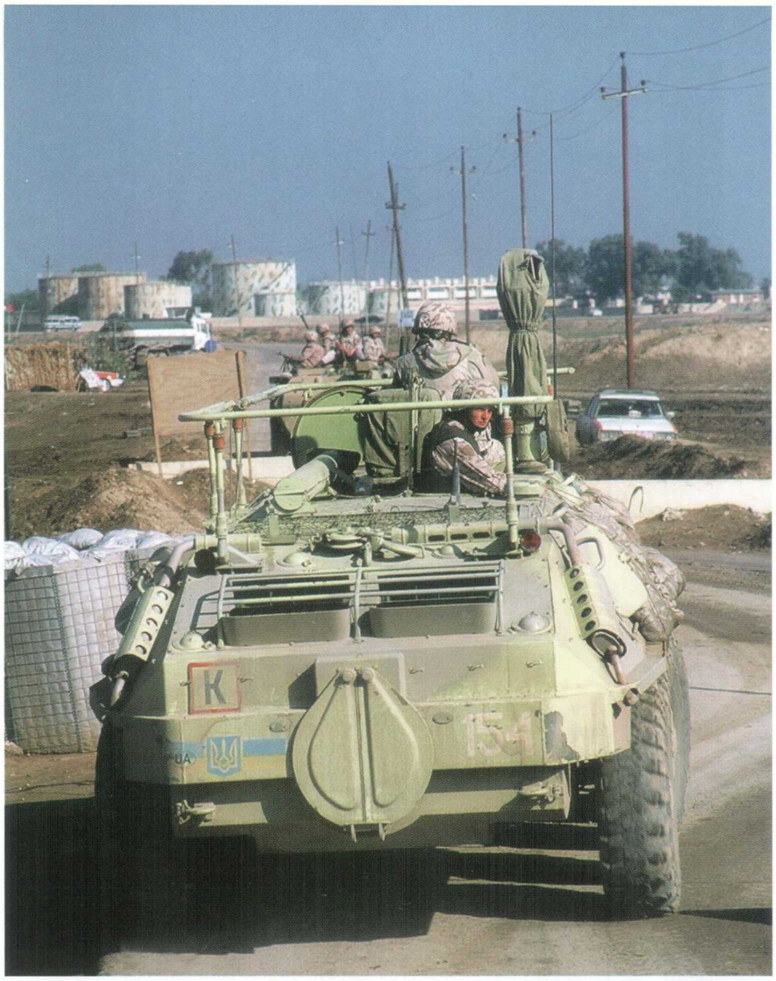


This photograph shows a BRDM-2 and a UAZ 4x4 light vehicle used by the Ukrainian military police company.



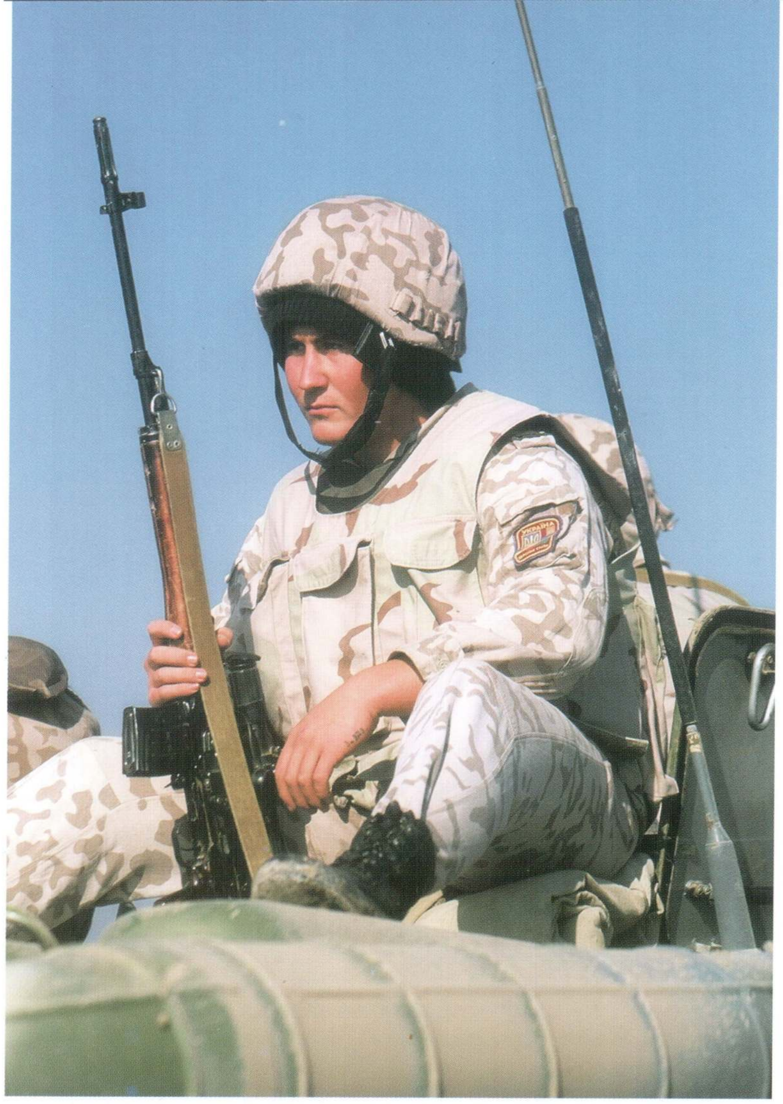
The Ukrainian BTR-60-145 BM vehicle is not armed.

Seated atop a BTR-80, Ukrainian soldiers leave Al Kut to conduct a patrol. It was during a similar patrol that seven Ukrainian soldiers were wounded in an ambush on 28 October 2003. The pictured troops belong to the two motorized battalions of CBT-2, which is under Ukrainian command.

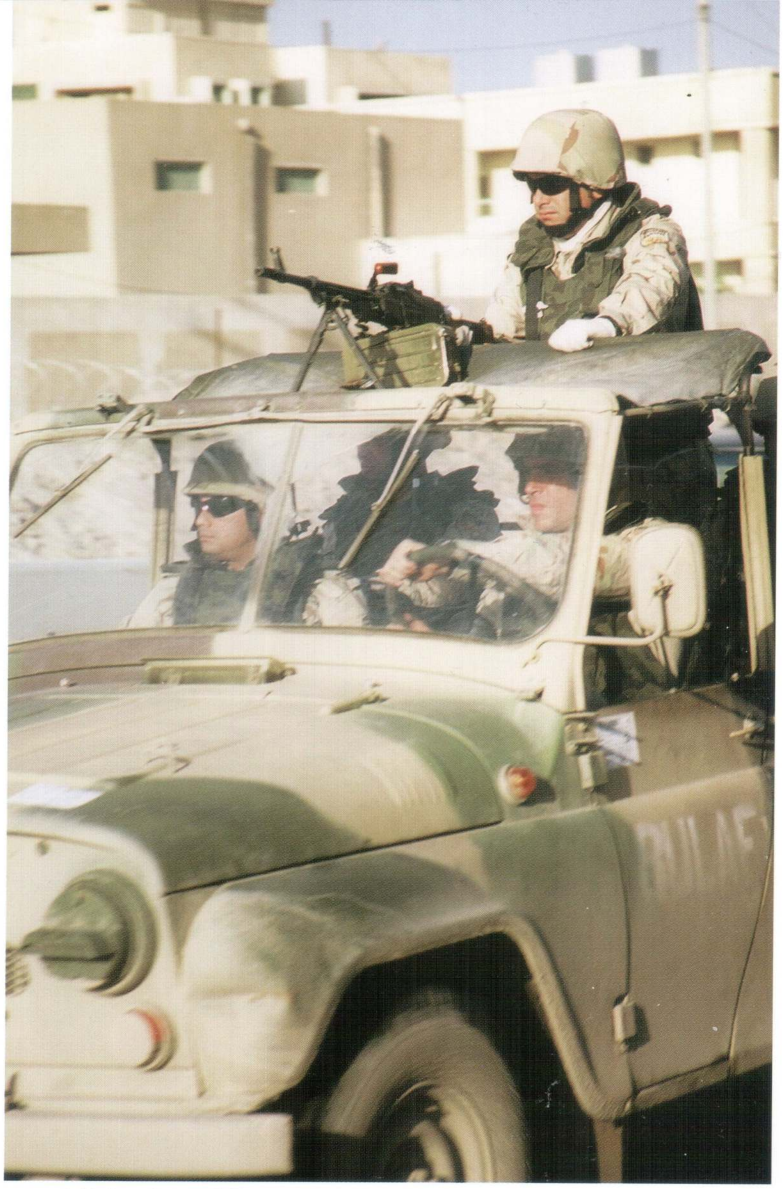


Another interesting vehicle in use among the Ukrainians is the BTR-60-145 BM with a telescopic mast at the rear of the commander's cupola (covered here by canvas), the roof-mounted generator, and the rail-type antenna, which is seen here in the raised position.

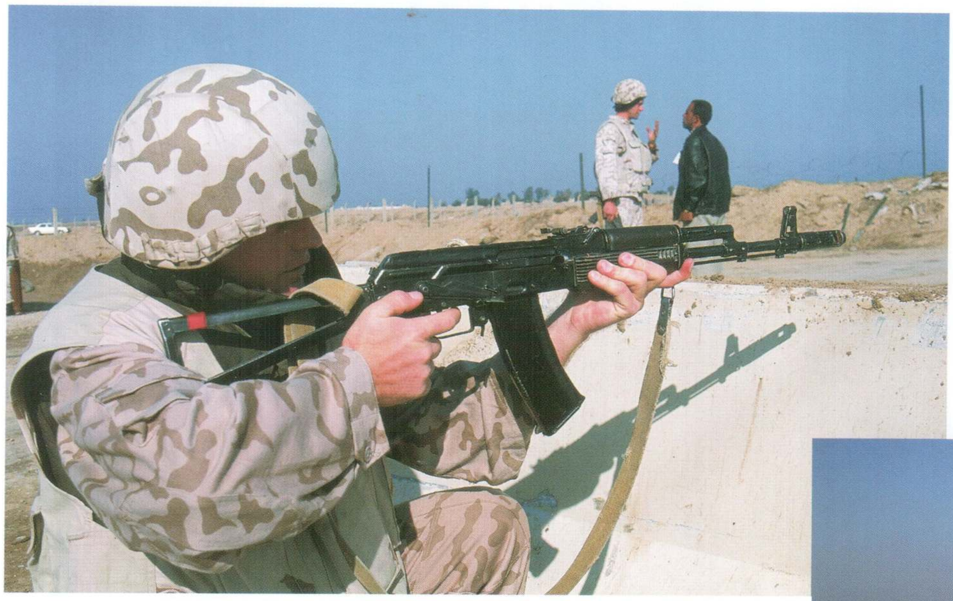
With 1637 soldiers, Ukraine fields the second largest contingent (after Poland) in the MND (CS). Ukrainian soldiers are volunteers and come from different units, mainly airborne and motorized rifle battalions.



The sand-colored camouflage worn by these troops was made in Ukraine. The flak vest, which is US-made, features desert pattern camouflage and large front pockets. The weapons carried by the Ukrainian soldiers are standards of the former Warsaw Pact: PKMs, Dragunovs and AKJ-74 assault rifles.

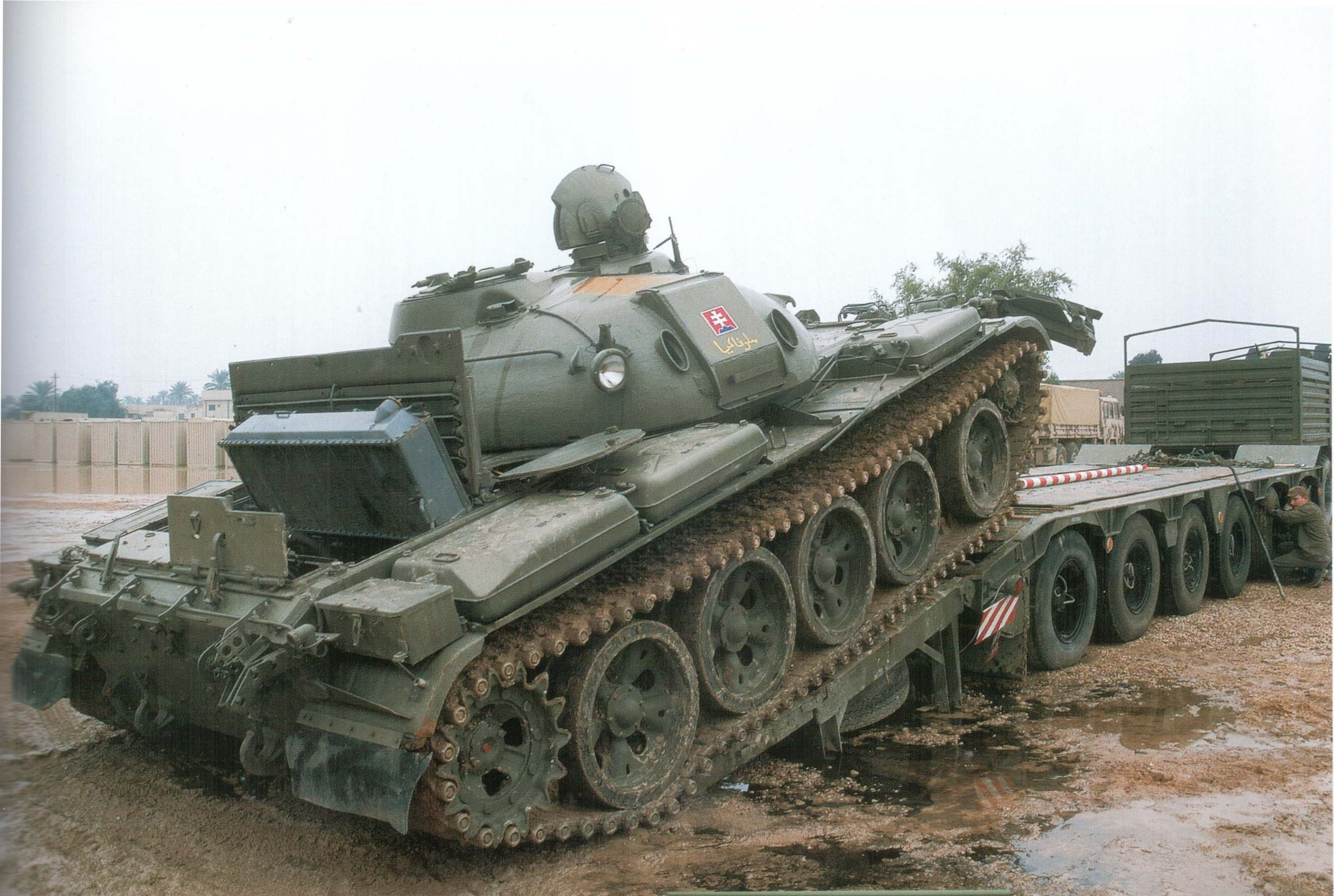


A Bulgarian soldier on a UAZ 4x4 in Karbala. Five soldiers from this contingent were killed on 28 December 2003.

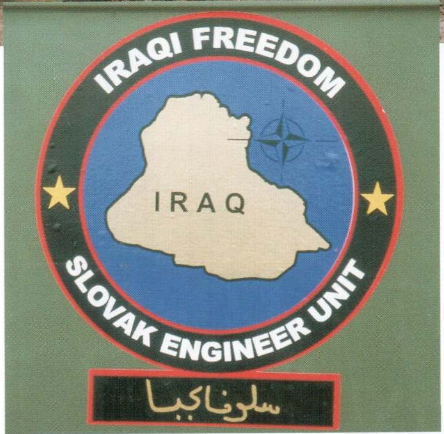


The classic weapon of the Ukrainians is the AK-74 in 4.45mm x 39, which weighs 3.6kg (8 lb.). Fitted with a folding stock, it is 69cm (27 in) long with the butt folded and 93cm (36.6 in) long with the butt extended (as seen here.) The weapon has a rate of fire of 650 rd/min and a muzzle velocity of 90 m/s (295 f/s)

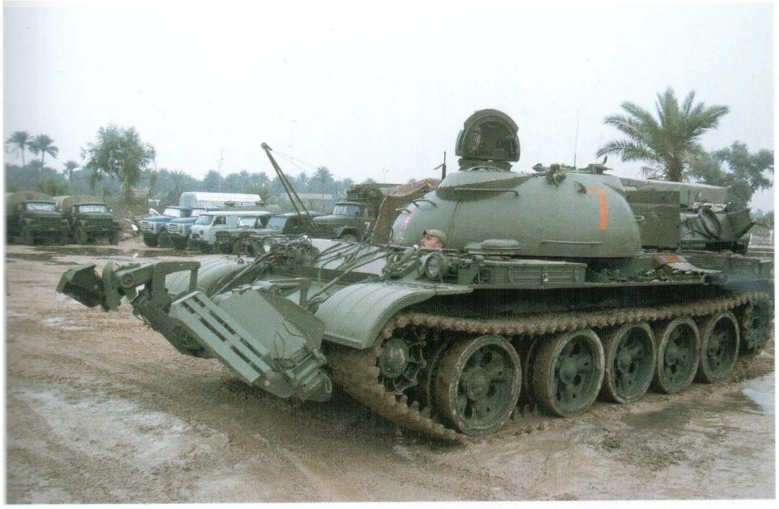
Ukrainian soldiers inspect a fuel truck. One can imagine the disaster that would occur if a similar truck were used by an Islamic kamikaze, which happened at the Italian HQ in Nasiriyah.



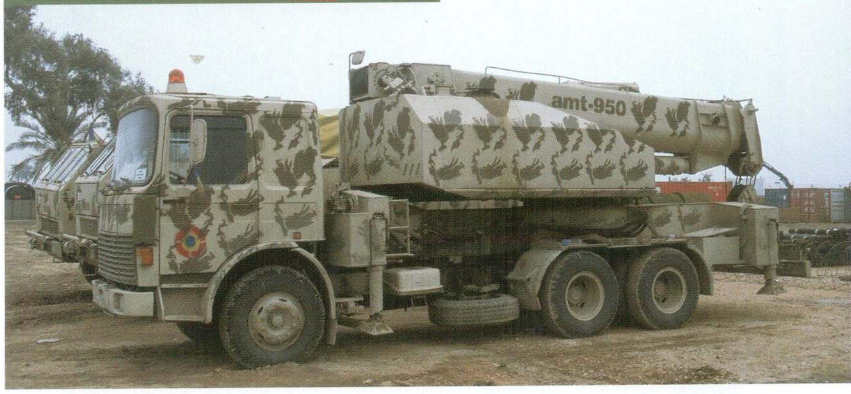
A T-55 equipped with the mine clearing devise is loaded onto a trailer. It belongs to the heavy de-mining platoon of the Slovak engineer unit, which is part of the Slovak Quick Reaction Force.



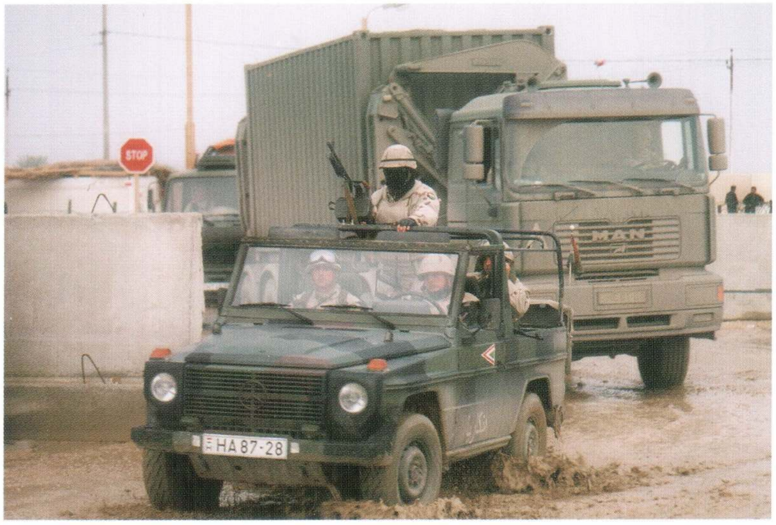
Badge of the Slovak Engineer Unit. The Slovakian Army provides an engineer contingent to the MND (CS) that is specialized in de-mining. Some 77 Slovak sappers who have had experience operating in the Balkans are deployed in Al Hillah.



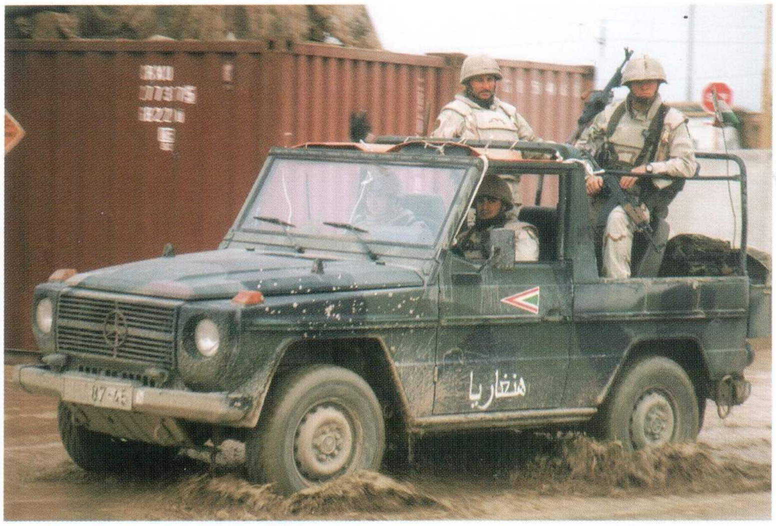
A good view of a Slovak T-55. The Slovak Engineer Unit is based in Martin in Slovakia. The two other de-mining platoons are equipped with two Bozena de-mining vehicles, which is a tracked vehicle with a rolling chain. Some OT-64 SKOT armored personnel carriers are also in service with the Slovak contingent.



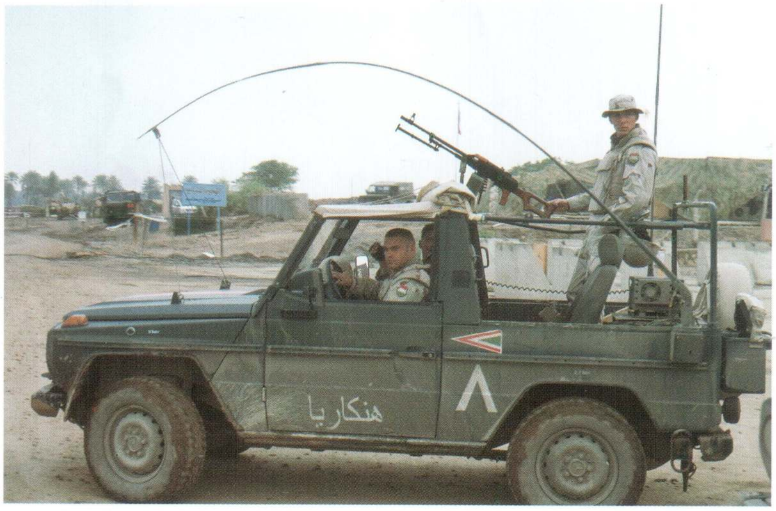
This heavy SSM truck belongs to the Romanian engineer battalion. As is evident, the weather can be brutal in Iraq. The Al Hillah logistic base where this photo was taken was literally an ocean of mud. Romania can now be considered one of the best Eastern allies of the United States. Romania provides special forces troops in Afghanistan, an infantry battalion in the MND (SE) under British command, and a strong construction engineer and an intelligence detachment to MND (CS).



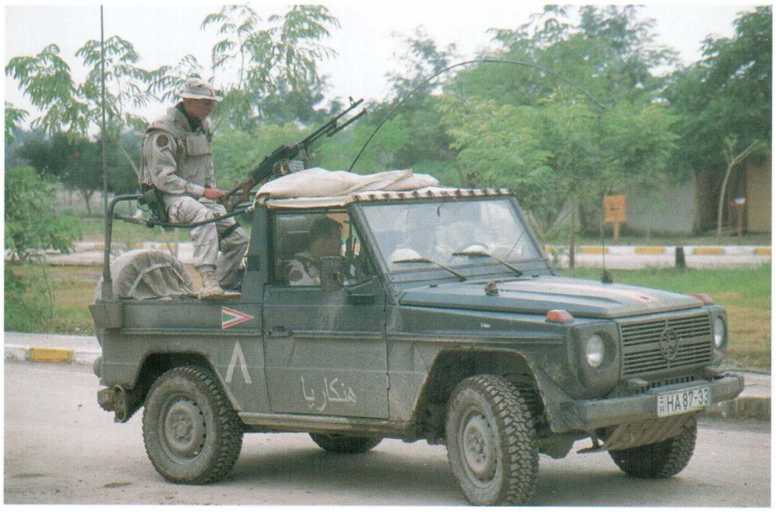
The Hungarian soldiers in Iraq are tasked with managing the transportation battalion of the MND (CS). Here a Hungarian convoy of MAN trucks leaves Al Hillah logistic base. The MAN trucks are brand new; last year a large part of the old Russian truck park was replaced with the German truck. Iraq was the first deployment for the new equipment.



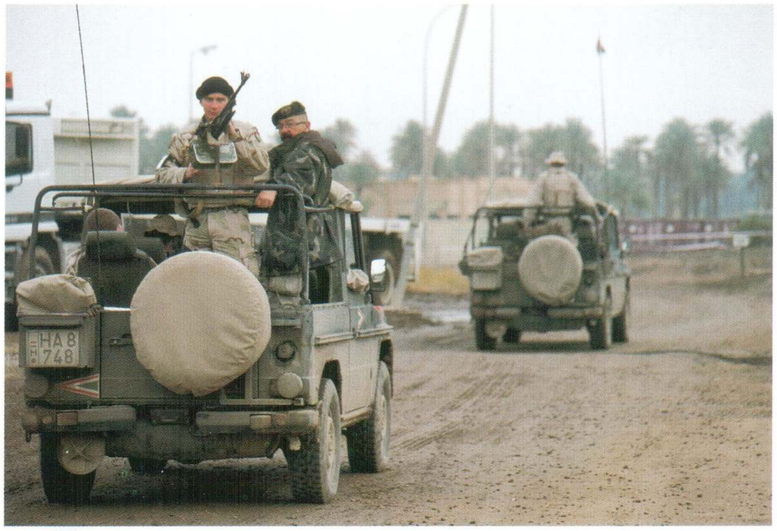
The Hungarians use the Mercedes "Wolf" vehicle as an escort for the convoy.



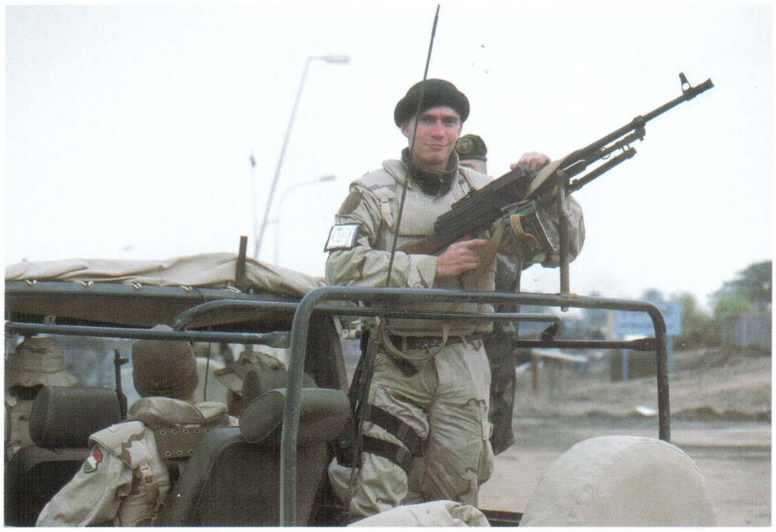
Profile view of a Mercedes "Wolf" operated by the Hungarian troops. Note the white chevron insignia of the coalition, the red-white-green national flash, and the Arabic inscription on the vehicle.



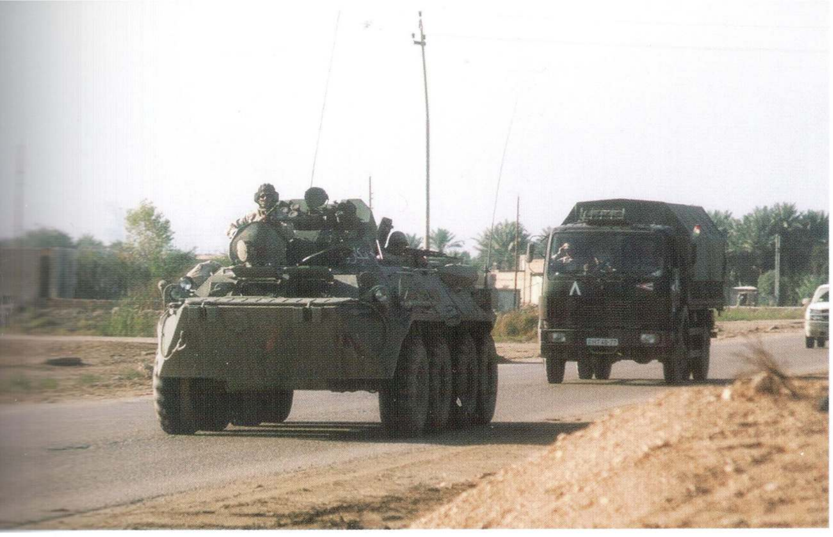
Within the Hungarian Army, the Mercedes "Wolf" has begun to replace the MAZ, UAZ, and GAZ 4x4 vehicles of Russian origin.



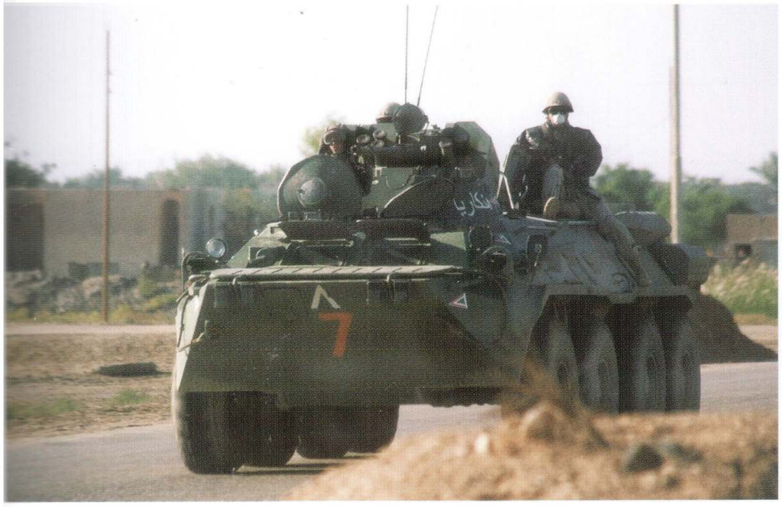
Rear view of two Hungarian Mercedes "Wolf" escort vehicles.



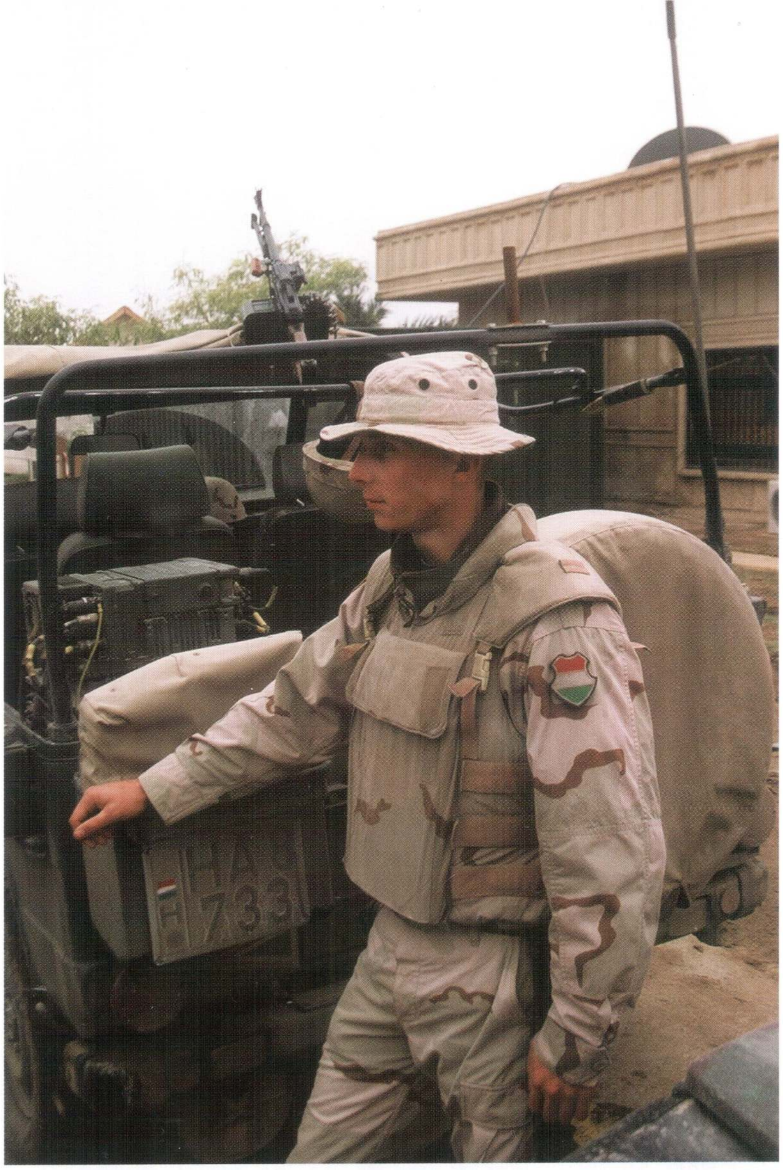
This photo provides a good view of a Hungarian machine gunner in the back of a Mercedes "Wolf." Just as in the Polish Honker 2000 "Skorpion" and the Bulgarian and Mongolian UAZ, the main weapon in the Hungarian "Wolf" is the PKM, the multi-purpose machine gun of the brigade.



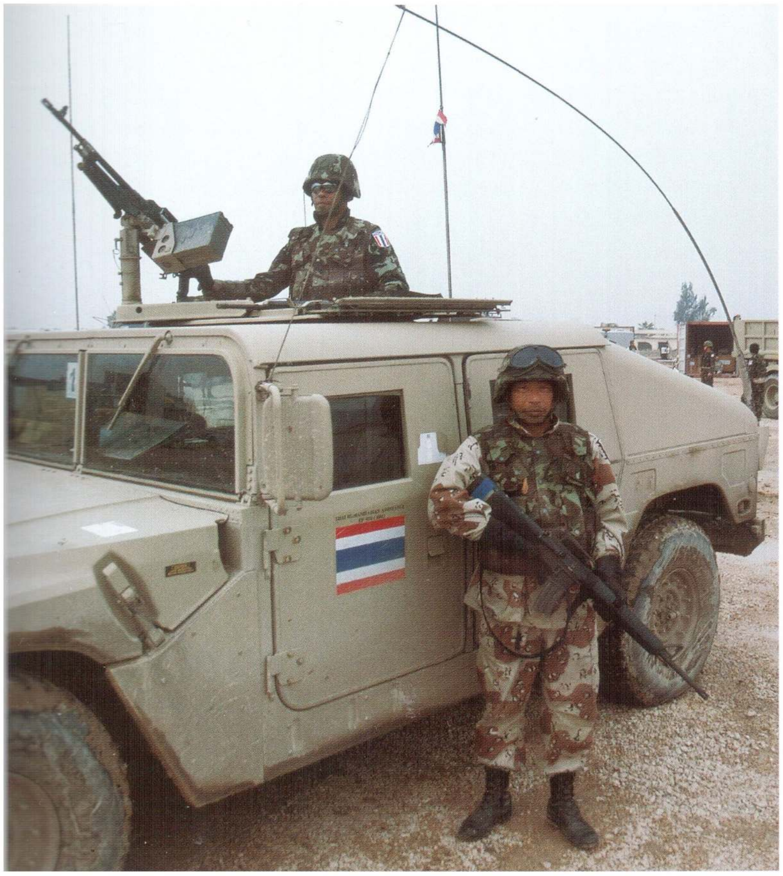
A Hungarian BTR-80 escorts a convoy. Last December, the Magyard Transportation Battalion celebrated its 1000th mission without a casualty, though the convoys came under fire several times.

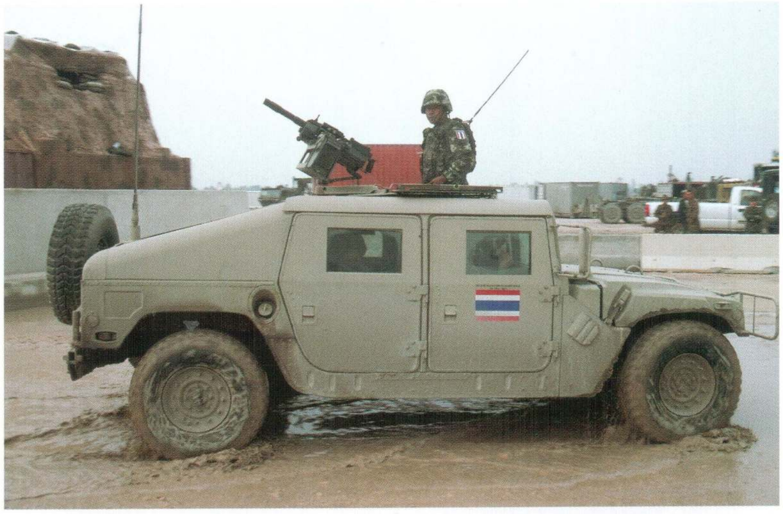


The Hungarian transportation battalion is composed of two transport companies with 200 trucks and an escort company with 16 BTR-80 vehicles.



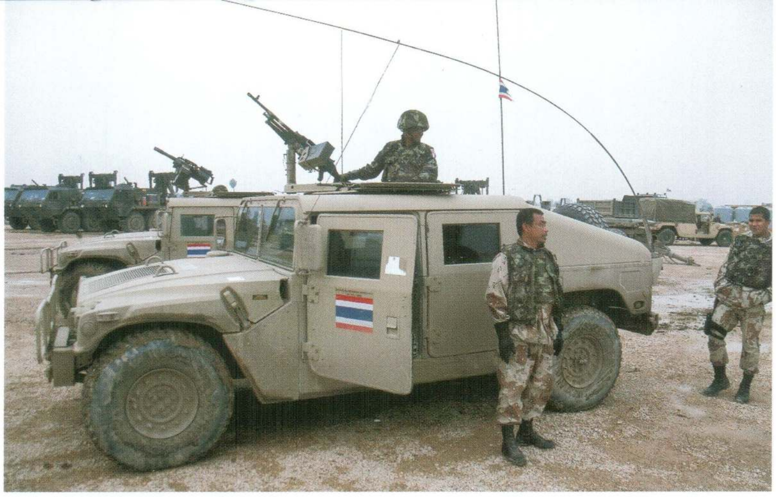
A Hungarian soldier pays a visit to Camp Babylon. A total of 295 Hungarian soldiers serve inside the MND (CS). They wear the US desert camouflage with their national colors on the left arm.



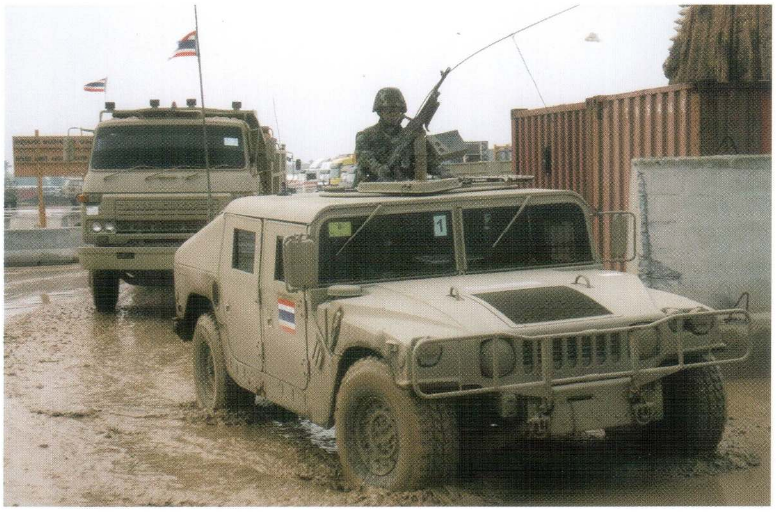


Unlike the Central American contingent, which received their vehicles directly from the US Army, the Thai soldiers brought their own HMMWVs to Iraq.

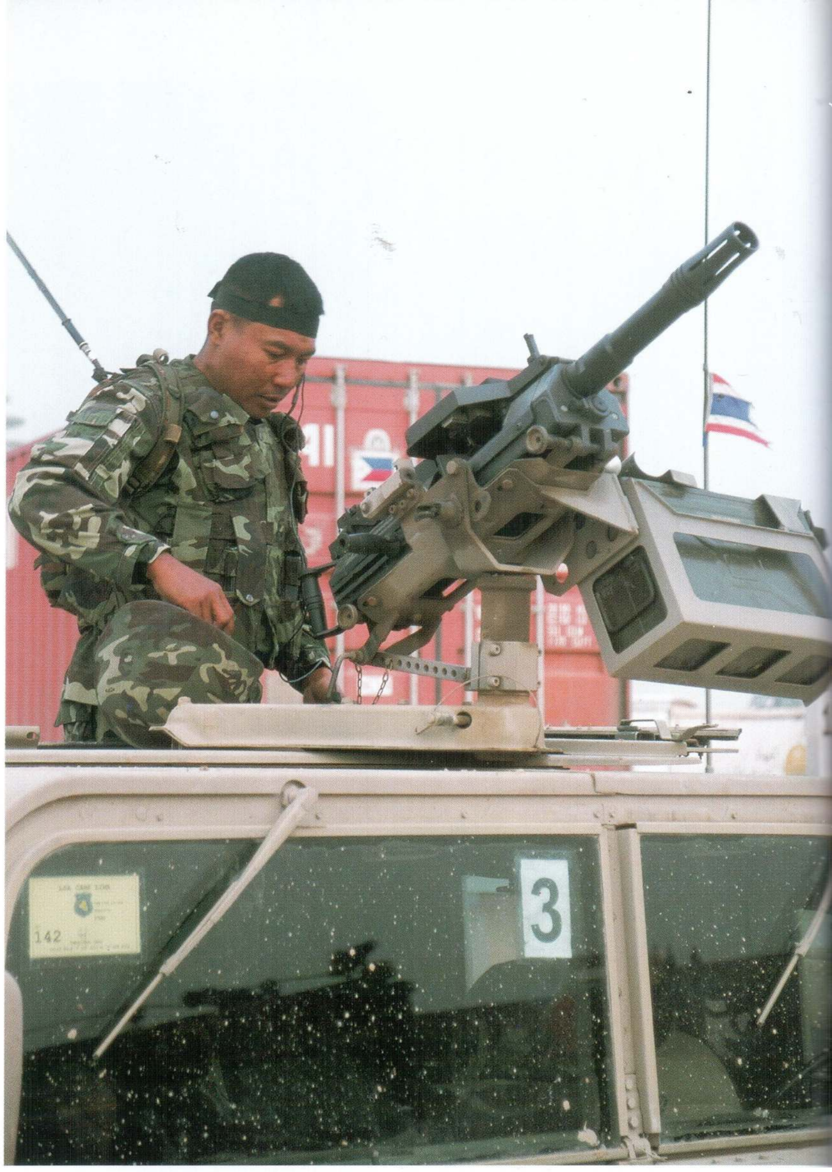
A total of 87 Thai soldiers serve in the MND (CS). They consider themselves to be non-combatants and involve themselves in constructing barracks. Nevertheless, they are armed for self-protection and escort duty, as can be seen here during a visit to the logistic base at Al Hillah. Note the difference in camouflage between the machine gunner wearing forest green camouflage and the soldier armed with the M16 dressed in the first pattern of US desert camouflage.



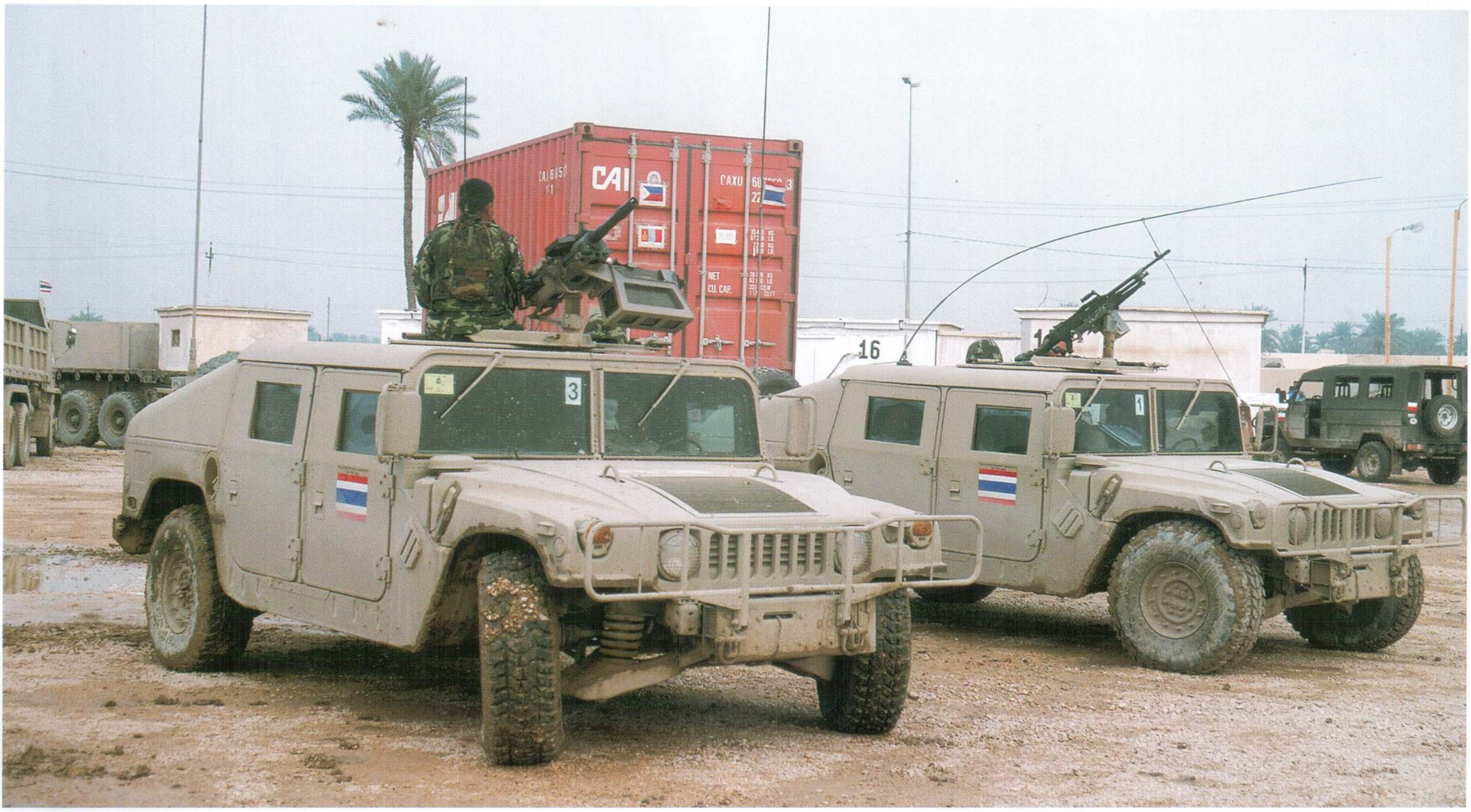
A large national flag located on the door identifies the HMMWV as belonging to the Thai contingent.



A Thai convoy leaves the MND (CS) logistic base at Al Hillah to join their garrison near Karbala. Behind the HMMWV is a Japanese-made Nissan truck full of supplies. The Thai contingent suffered several casualties, including two deaths, during the attack in Karbala in December.



Close-up of a Thai soldier dressed in forest camouflage who mans a US-made Mk.19 40mm grenade launcher atop a HMMWV.



The Thai HMMWVs seen here are armed with two different kinds of weapons. The vehicle on the left is fitted with the US-made Mk.19 40mm grenade launcher and the one on the right is equipped with the Belgian-made 7.62mm MAG machine gun.

Iraq's New Armed Forces

Carl Schulze

Some of the Iraqi army equipment was supplied by Western nations such as France; other Western-made equipment, including 155mm M109 self-propelled howitzers, was captured by the Iraqis in Kuwait in 1990 or from Iran during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Here a French-made 155mm AUF-1 self-propelled howitzer of the Republican Guard is removed to the scrap yard. It may well be that in the future all Iraqi army equipment will come from US stocks.

When on 1 May 2003 President Bush officially declared the end of the fighting in Iraq, the entire Iraqi armed forces, which was numbered at some 429,000 troops, had vanished. The advancing coalition forces destroyed the heavy equipment of the Iraqi forces, while the Iraqi soldiers were either killed during the fighting or, as the majority of them did, just left their uniforms and weapon behind and went home. In addition to the Iraqi Armed Forces, the majority of Security Forces such as the police and border police had also ceased to exist. Under the reconstruction process initiated by the Civil Provisional Authority and supported by the coalition forces of CJTF-7, it was planned that new Iraqi security forces numbering around 221,700 personnel would be formed. At the time of writing members of the new Iraqi security force already operate along with the coalition forces in order to counter the activities of the resistance forces. Between June 2003 and December 2003, 86 members of the new forces had already been killed, and another 153 were wounded.

Iraq's New Security Forces

Plans of the CPA ask for the following strength of future Iraqi security forces:

- Iraqi Border Police:	25,000
- Iraqi Police Service:	71,000
- Facility Protection Forces:	50,000
- Iraqi Civil Defense Corps:	40,000
- Iraqi Army, Navy and Air Force:	40,000

By late 2003, the Iraqi Border Police numbered 4000 members, while the Iraqi Police Service was already 62,000 policemen strong. The first battalion of the Iraqi Army, which numbered 700 soldiers, became operational, and the ICDC had 15,000 troops in service. The Facility Protection Service numbered 20,000 guards.

Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC)

The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) is a militia-type organization. The ICDCs soldiers are Iraqi citizens who are recruited into locally based company- and battalion-size units. The members of the ICDC remain in their communities and their ICDC units are integrated into the coalition force's chain of command. The three-week training of the ICDC troops is designed to enable the Iraqi militia soldiers to support the coalition forces during their security operations. Once the coalition forces have left Iraq, the ICDC will support the newly formed Iraqi Army.

Basic training for the ICDC consists of learning basic commands in English, rules of engagement, how to establish vehicle checkpoints, conducting security patrols, crowd and riot control, as well as live firing with the ICDC's standard weapon, the 7.62mm AK-47. Training of the ICDC troops is conducted locally by the coalition forces, which are responsible for the AOR in which the ICDC unit is based. Once the troops have finished their training, they operate together with the coalition troops. This includes joint patrols or protecting coalition force establishments. In January 2004, the ICDC numbered 15,000 operational soldiers based all over Iraq. There is a plan to increase this number to 40,000 by mid-2004.

Facility Protection Service (FPS)

The Facility Protection Service was raised in order to establish a force that could secure public facilities such as banks, power stations, water factories, and hospitals, as well as gas and oil installations. The bulk of the FPS personnel were recruited from former Iraqi security force personnel. Even former members of the Baath Party can join the FPS.

The FPS also employs a number of females. By the end of 2003, the FPS had 20,000 members and was guarding 240 critical sites. The training

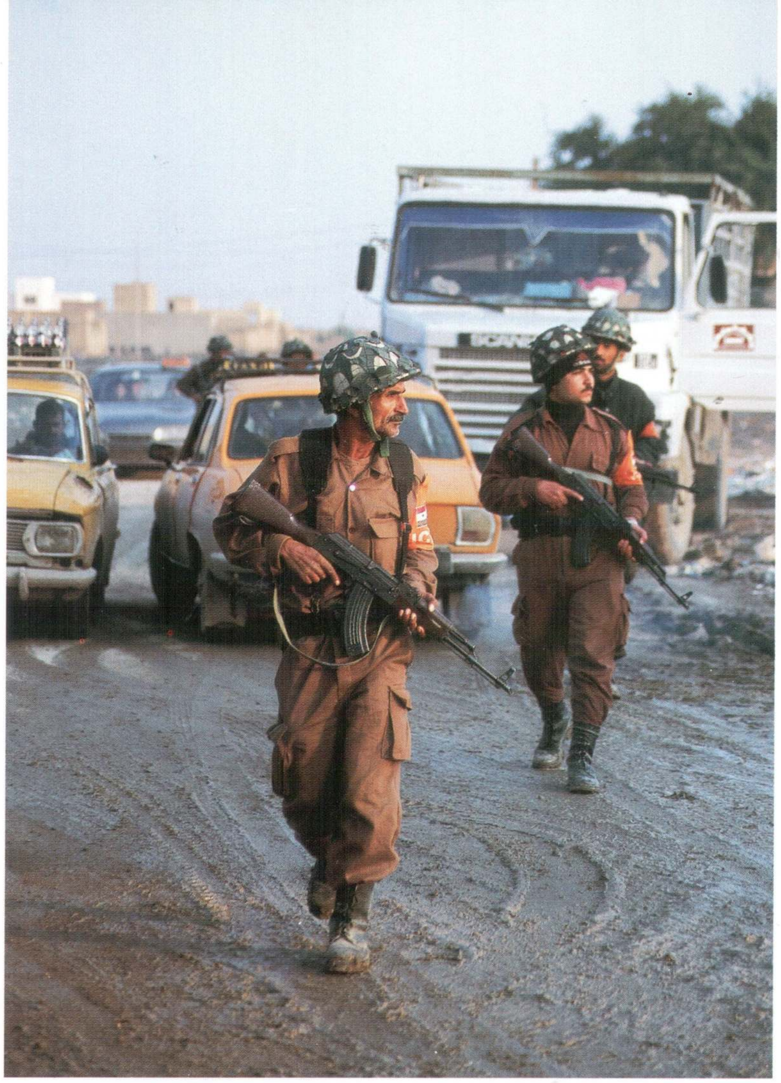
Together with a soldier from the Dominican Republic, troops from the ICDC prepare to go on a joint patrol. The ICDC militiamen are armed with 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifles. Note that the ICDC men wear uniforms of the former regime's army, a situation that the men dislike and will soon be changed.

of the FPS personnel, which only lasts several days, includes individual and vehicle searches, ethics and human rights, weapon familiarization, and conducting proper vehicle and person searches. Once trained, the guards work together with the US military or coalition forces.

Iraqi Police Service

In the times of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi Police Service was relatively small with its 20,000 officers and, therefore, was regularly supported by the army. The new Iraqi Police Service will consist of 71,000 officers and, therefore, will be able to cope with the civil security requirements without assistance. By late 2003, the Iraqi Police Force consisted already of 62,000 policemen. The reason for the quick recreation of the Iraqi Police Service is that shortly after the conflict, US forces began vetting and "de-baathing" members of the existing police force, eliminating people who have had history of human rights violations, primarily the senior elements of the police force.

Iraqi soldiers of the new Iraqi army conduct a vehicle checkpoint on the outskirts of Baghdad along with US troops. At the time of writing, the US forces had begun to hand over some areas of Iraq to local security forces.



Militiamen of the ICDC patrol in Ad Diwaniyah. The soldiers are armed with the 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifle. As there are sufficient numbers of small arms in Iraq to arm the new security forces, it is most likely that these will be used. However, as for heavy equipment, it looks like US material will be supplied.

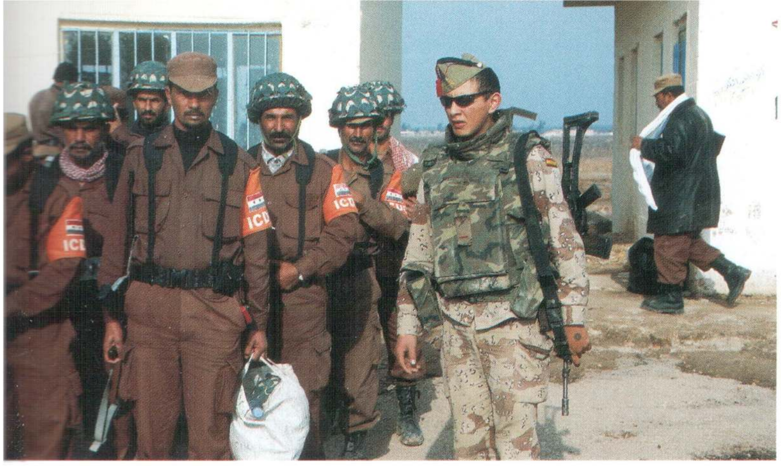
Iraqi Border Police

At the time of writing newly established Iraqi Border Police units were slowly starting to take over border protection duty from coalition forces. Currently, border police units number around 4,000 officers, and the force's strength will increase to 25,000. Border protection is of vital importance to Iraq's security as the country is currently a haven for smugglers. In addition, well-controlled borders will stop the arms supply to the Iraqi resistance forces, as well as prevent foreign fighters from slipping into the country.

The New Iraqi National Defense Forces

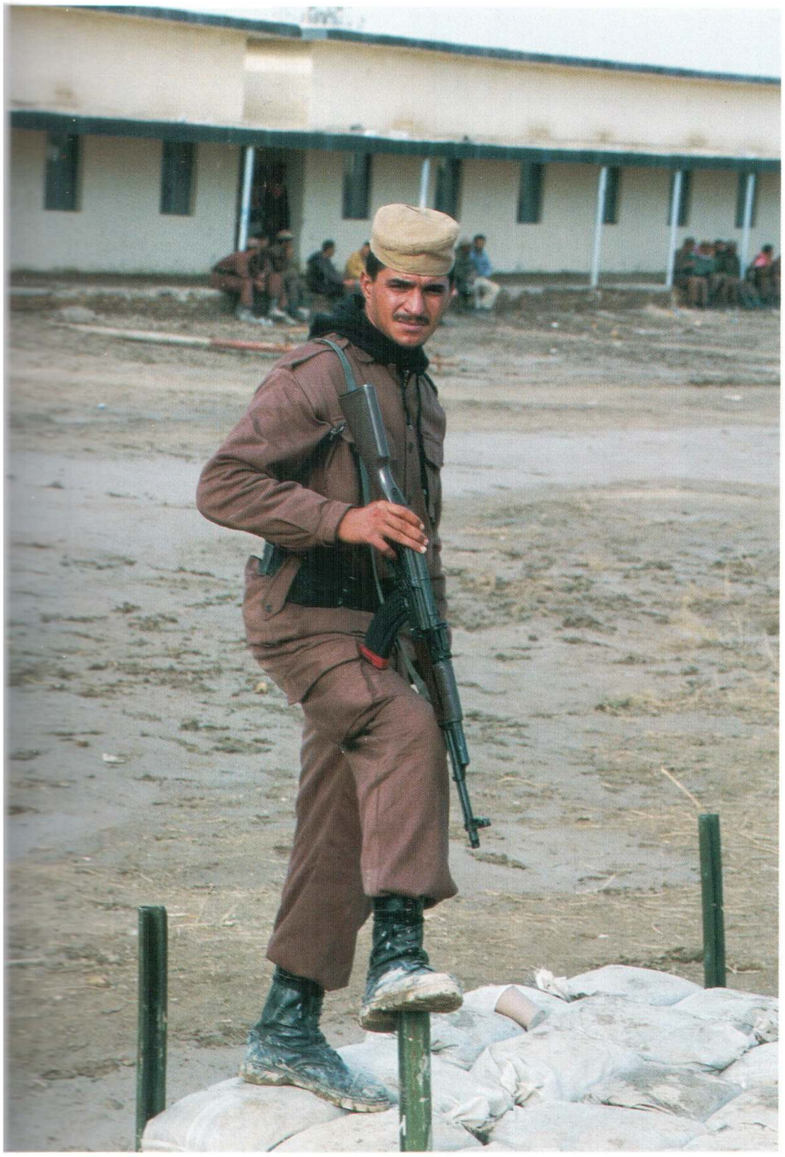
The new Iraqi National Defense Forces will consist of some 40,000 troops, the bulk of which will belong to the army, while small contingents of soldiers will form the air force and navy. Current plans ask for three army divisions with a total of nine brigades. By the end of 2004 the first division, which will be a light infantry force numbering some 12,000 troops, will be operational. On 4 October 2003, the first infantry battalion numbering 700 soldiers was officially graduated. Within the units of the new Iraqi army, the Iraqi religious, regional and ethnic mix will be reflected.

The new Iraqi National Defense Force will be under law-based civilian control and will be a force designed only for defense and security. Excluded from service in the new Iraqi Army are former members of



The soldiers of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps are trained locally by the troops of the coalition forces. Here troops of the ICDC are seen prior to a patrol with troops of the Spanish Legion. Basic training for the ICDC consists of learning how to establish and maintain vehicle checkpoints, conduct security patrols, perform crowd and riot control, as well as live firing practice.

regime security organizations, intel organizations, the Special Republican Guards, Ba'ath Party security, and militia organizations, as well as top-level Ba'ath Party members. Also excluded from service are high-ranking officers above the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Former army personnel under this rank are accepted for duty if they are not older than 18 to 40 years old. Recruiting for the army is done at recruiting centers in Baghdad, Basra, Mosul, and Arbil.



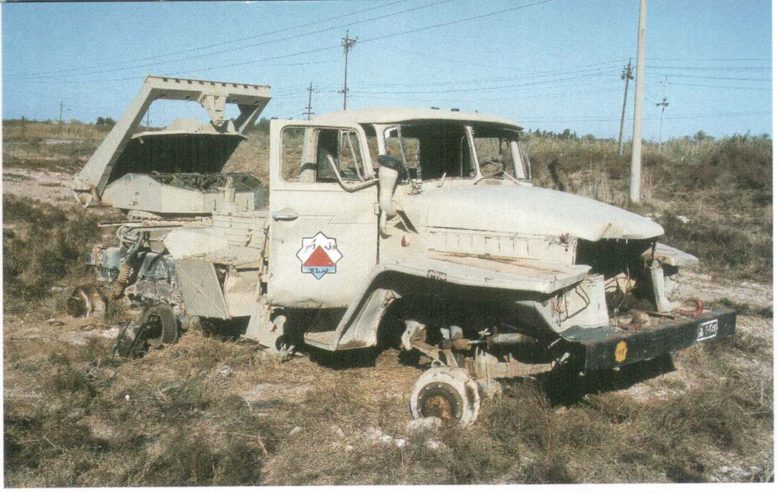
A militiaman of the ICDC stands guard at one of the corps compounds. The ICDC is recruited, trained and based locally. Its members remain local citizens. This soldier belongs to the ICDC contingent that is trained by troops of the Spanish Legion.

Most of the military hardware of the old Iraqi army was destroyed during the 2003 war. This Republican Guard T-72 was seen close to Baghdad near the highway to Jordan. The equipment of Saddam Hussein's armed forces was mainly of Russian origin.

Heavy Weapons and Equipment

As for equipment, there are enough small arms remaining from pre-war times to equip the new Iraqi National Defense Forces. Not much is left of the heavy equipment like tanks, armored personnel carriers, aircraft, helicopters, and ships. Since the rebuilding of the Iraqi military is closely supervised and controlled by the United States, it is most likely that the heavy equipment for the new forces will be of US origin. The use of US

Among its fleet of French-made 155mm AUF-1 and US-made 155mm M109 self-propelled howitzers, the Iraqi army operated a fleet of approximately 50 122mm 2S1 self-propelled howitzers of Russian origin. A battery of wrecks of 122mm 2S1 were seen south of Baghdad near Al Kut.



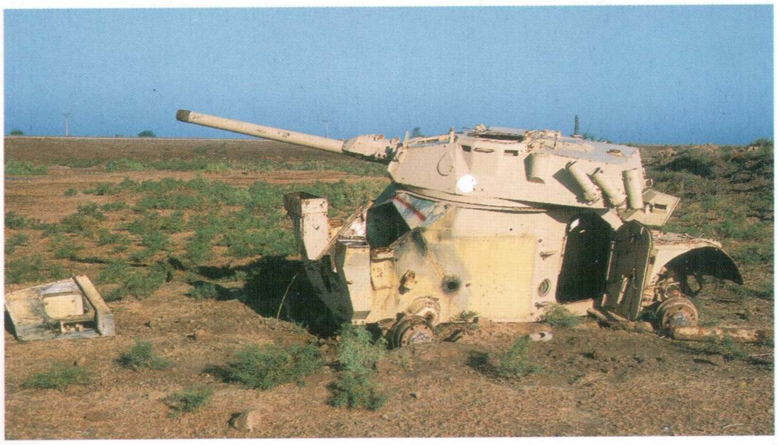
Seen here are the remains of a 122mm BM-21 multiple rocket launcher belong to a Republican Guard unit. The BM-21 was seen near Balad north of Baghdad, along with several other vehicles of the same kind.

systems would require significant training and allow the US to have a continued military influence in Iraq long after significant US units have departed. If left to its own accord, Iraq would most likely turn to other available systems on the open arms sales markets, most likely Russian, that the Iraqi military already has experience using.

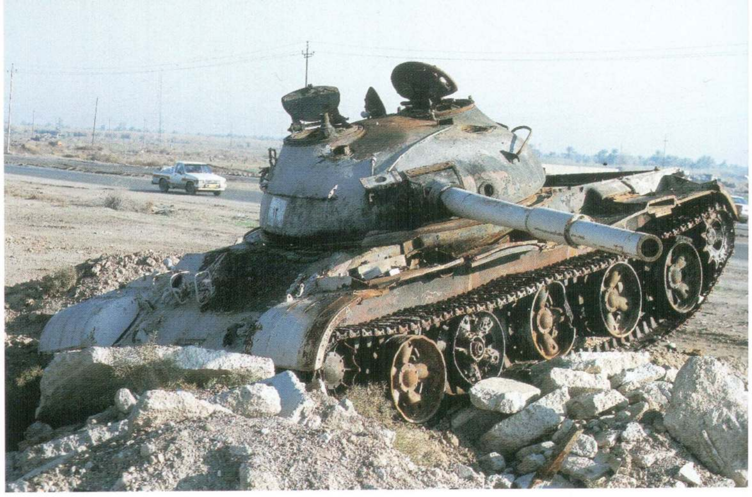
As regards numbers, it must be taken in account that the strength of the Iraqi forces must be strong enough to deter an enemy aggressor but at the same time not be so large that a future Iraqi government could launch an attack against any of its neighbors. Another factor that would deter this is that should the new Iraqi National Defense Forces use US-made arms, US advisors will constantly be present for maintenance and training support of the more sophisticated systems. This practice, which is already in operation in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, guarantees US influence in the region.

Officials have stated that with an estimated 22 billion dollars in income from oil production and a 5 per cent defense budget, 1.1 billion can be spent for defense procurements. Within the next ten years Iraq might be able to equip its forces with a combined arms package of US origin. The experts see a requirement for 1200 main battle tanks, which might be a mix of M1A2s and M60A3s. To enhance the troops' mobility, some 2500 armored personnel carries of various kinds are needed, including the tracked M2A2 and the M113A3, as well as the wheeled LAV family. Some 500 81mm and 120mm mortars, as well as 550 artillery pieces are required for indirect fire support. The artillery pieces will include towed 105mm and 155mm howitzers such as the M198, as well as tracked systems such as the 155mm M109A6. Additional artillery equipment might include 50 M270 MLRS systems.

Some 50 AH-64 attack helicopters, as well as 60 transport helicopters of different kinds, including the UH-60 might be needed as well. The air force might be equipped with F-15 and F-16 combat aircraft, which are



Like everywhere in Iraq, many wrecks can be seen in the area of the MND (CS). Shown here is a former Iraqi Army AML-90 that was destroyed in Al Kut during the war.



The Iraqi army operated over 200 T-62 (Model 1972) main bat
tanks. The remains of this vehicle were seen north of Baghdad on th
side of Highway Number 1.

able to conduct all of the required missions in defense of a country. T
navy will need a number of patrol craft such as the PC 1 Cylone to pat
the short coast of Iraq in the Persian Gulf.

"The New Iraqi Army will be the beginning and not the end of the n
Iraqi armed forces which will defend the Iraqi nation, rather than
particular leader or regime. It will be open to the whole Iraqi nation.'
Brigadier Riley, Deputy of Commanding General of the Coalition Milita
Advisory and Training Team.

In order to bring normalcy back to Iraq's streets, the CPA and t
coalition forces quickly established a new Iraqi Police Service. Wh
in some areas of Iraq the police have still not received new unifor
and wear a mixture of civilian clothing and uniform parts, the pol
officers in Baghdad have begun to look like real policemen. T
policeman was seen during a large demonstration against the te
of the resistance forces that took place in early December of 200

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